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Editors of The Spectator

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april 18, 2007

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Softball fails to take conference lead



Jackie Canchola

The Spectator

Short stop Megan MacIsaac fields a grounder at a home game against St. Martin's last week.

Jessica Van Gilder
Staff Writer

Coming out of a hitting slump, the Seattle University softball team proved it can move the ball, but they still left the weekend with a losing record of 1-2.

With the losses this weekend, other teams are creeping up on SU's conference lead, coming close to taking a potential berth to regionals.

After the first loss to Western Oregon University in the first game, the team struggled to make an impression until Sunday's game. However, the team proved it can still string hits together despite the loss.

"The first game we controlled. It was within our grasp until the

sixth inning and we had a couple unlucky breaks that turned around the whole game," said Dan Powers, head coach. "The second game... that was kind of a let down game. We let them continue momentum on their side and we made errors, but then Sunday they collected themselves really well and played well."

In the first game, the Wolves scored two runs in the first inning, but SU answered with one run the next inning and two runs in the third to take the lead. After two scoreless innings SU crossed the plate again in the sixth, giving them a 5-2 lead.

But WOU tied up the game in the bottom of the sixth with a two-out rally that scored three runs.

Going into the bottom of the

seventh, the game was still tied and WOU brought home a runner that was on base due to a questionable call, and won the game 6-5.

Kaha Weir, sophomore psychology major, nearly hit for the cycle contributing a single, a double and a homerun, as well as three RBI's. Although she called the double-header disheartening, she felt that the team pulled through to find a balance between defense and offense in the first game.

"The first game was a great game because both teams were hitting and playing defense well. We all came together and had timely hitting," said Weir. "It was a tight game. Everything mattered, down to the calls. It just happened that the game went their way."

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Seattle U examines Virginia Tech massacre

Nicholas Lollini
Editor-in-Chief

Though the tragic events at the Virginia Tech occurred literally a continent away, their effects could be seen and felt on every college campus and every educational community.

"The shock wave that came through our country, as to the effect that all faculty and staff [and students] are vulnerable was shattering," said Mike Sletten, Director of Public safety.

Seattle University, as did many other university's across the nation, joined Virginia Tech's community in their grieving and search for answers. Students and faculty from all different walks gathered for a liturgy at the Chapel of St. Ignatius on Tuesday afternoon.

In addition to liturgical and grievance services, members of Seattle University's executive team, along with members of campus public safety and the Seattle police department, met and discussed in which ways the Seattle University campus may be susceptible to a similar incident. Those discussions ended with an open forum for all members of the Seattle University community.

"I know my perspective on the Virginia Tech incident is from a staff perspective, but I wanted to hear from students what their perspectives were, I wanted to know what students are thinking about," said Rachael Paul, residence hall director of the Murphy apartments.

According to Sletten, Seattle University works in coordination with the Seattle police department to handle

instances on campus that require police involvement. The average response time for the SPD to the Seattle University campus ranges from one to three minutes.

During the forum, students and faculty had the opportunity to hear exactly what plans for improving communications between individuals on campus, should an event like this occur, what the course of action for SPD and Public Safety would be, as well as gaining an understanding of what a potential profile of an attacker would be.

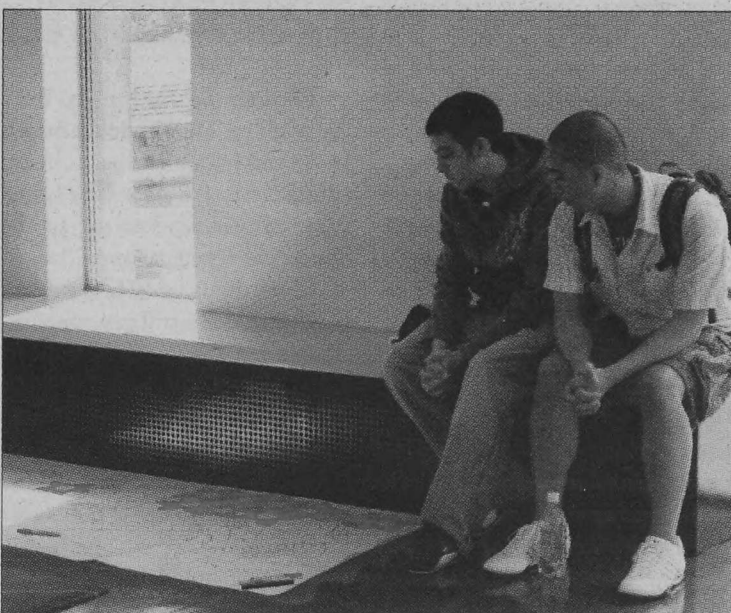
"It seems like Seattle University is 10 years behind, and 10 thousand dollars short of being prepared to deal with an incident like Virginia Tech," said one individual in attendance.

Of the possibilities for improvements in the Seattle University information systems, the possibility of incorporating warning systems into the existing fire alarm systems, and also taking advantage of cell phones and PDA's as potential instruments for communicating information to the campus community.

According to Sletten, there are currently no individuals at Seattle University that are being monitored, or that the threat assessment team has been made aware of, that could fit the profile of a possible attacker.

"We are not aware of persons of concern," said Sletten. "There are people who need assistance, who are not taken out of the educational settings. We need to be mindful of individuals that need our help."

Chris Kissel contributed to this story.



Jackie Canchola

The Spectator

Two Seattle University students reflect upon the tragedy that occurred on Monday at Virginia Tech.

Chapel celebrates 10 years

Sean Towey
Staff Writer

Architect Steven Holl created the Chapel of St. Ignatius to look like "seven bottles of light in a stone box." Though noted for its external beauty, the playful lights and 600 pounds of beeswax speak to only a small part of the reason why the Chapel of St. Ignatius has become a central part of Seattle University as well as the City of Seattle.

This reflects one part of the upcoming 10 year anniversary celebration's theme, "10 years of illumination." Beginning on April 21, the festivities includes a renewal of marriage vows and a performance from the Chapel's own choir.

"It's [the Chapel] beauty is part of a dialogue between the building and the people who go there," said G. DeCastro, liturgy coordinator for the Chapel. "The beauty gets us into something deeper and greater

than ourselves."

Before its creation in April of 1997, the chapel in the lobby of Campion served as SU's main gathering space in times of worship. The Chapel of St. Ignatius quickly changed the center of SU's faith life.

"It really made visible our identity as a Jesuit University," said DeCastro. "We're walking our talk by having the Chapel."

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Friday

April 20, 2007

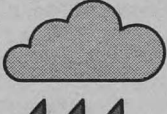
62°
44°



Saturday

April 21, 2007

57°
47°



Sunday

April 22, 2007

58°
44°



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news

07-08 ASSU candidate profiles

Nicholas Lollini
Editor-in-chief

Rob La Gatta
News Editor

As the quarter is coming to a close ASSU is looking towards the future with its upcoming elections. The Spectator has profiled the seven students running for the top four positions. Some candidates are running uncontested while others have some competition. Elections will begin April 24 and continue until April 26.

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President of ASSU

Aaron Yoon
Junior Finance Major

Of the two candidates for President of ASSU, the least Aaron Yoon, junior Finance major, can boast, is that experience is on his side. For the past three years Yoon has held both representative and executive level positions, and believes that over the past three years the presidency has grown with each successive leader.

"The last three years have given me exposure to the logistics and to how ASSU runs," said Yoon.

Though Yoon does not have a project specific agenda, he claims that his main goals if he were to be elected as President would be to increase accountability for all members of ASSU.

"For too long students have asked what does ASSU do? I want to show them, I want to make a noticeable difference," said Yoon.

In addition to more accountability, Yoon wants to make ASSU accessible to the general student population. In order to most effectively do that, he claims that the ASSU website, which is currently being reconstructed, will serve to inform the campus as to what ASSU is pursuing, and the result will be the students holding elected officials accountable. Yoon also believes that there are many necessary internal structural changes that must take place over the next year.

"People give up on projects, and no one keeps us accountable. That is something that needs to change, and that will change under my presidency," said Yoon. "That is the change for next year that will affect ASSU in the long run."

Steve Lombardi
Junior Journalism Major

Steve Lombardi is no stranger to ASSU. A junior journalism student who has spent the past year serving

the organization as Vice President of Student Affairs, Lombardi is one of two candidates running for President of ASSU.

"This year we worked our tails off," said Lombardi. "But there are definitely places to improve, and I already can see places that I can work to help improve ASSU's image and the student body's image."

Those areas include working towards making Seattle University 100 percent green energy, and striving for increased parking for students on campus (a goal that will be much easier to attain if Seattle University is successful in its bids to purchase the Qwest properties located near the Connolly Center).

But for Lombardi, the most important task at hand is ironing out the kinks involved with financial reimbursements.

"We have a reimbursement system, and it's a big hassle: there's a lot of paperwork on our side and on the club representatives side, and no one is ever happy with it," he said. "It always takes a long time...sometimes a few months, even. And that's something we need to hold ourselves accountable for, because [the problem] is mostly on our end."

Lombardi believes that his background in communications courses will help him should he be elected as Duong "Young" Truong's successor. A self-proclaimed visionary with strong communication skills, the Oregon native says that his strong delegation skills set him apart from other candidates.

Executive Vice President

DuWayne Andrews Jr.
Sophomore Political Science and Humanities Major

Though he may only be a sophomore, DuWayne Andrews, Jr. is ambitious in his political efforts...even if, for the time being, those efforts are limited to the Seattle University campus.

"Even though ASSU is student government, it is still government," Andrews said.

After spending last year as freshman representative and this year as sophomore representative, he believes that he has learned the structures of both ASSU and Seattle University.

It was a "good time" to run, according to Andrews - he sees the direction that ASSU is going, and believes he has a good idea of how he could contribute to the staff in a higher capacity next year.

One of those contributions involves closer collaboration between the different facets of the organization.

"I think the president and the video presidents should work closer together," Andrews said, noting that during his time with ASSU so far such collaborations have noticeably absent. Andrews believes he can improve on that.

Another area where he feels he can increase collaboration is between the general student body and ASSU, a group that has traditionally been considered isolated from the broader campus community.

"[I want] people there to see what we do, rep assembly-wise," he said.

Andrews' background as a political science and humanities major has provided him with a well-rounded range of experience that he thinks can help him serve as a student leader: from the humanities side, his ability to bring together all aspects of the Seattle University education to coincide with his campaign theme of "Finding your niche at SU."

From the political science side, he brings to the table a strong knowledge of governmental policies, as well as his leadership abilities that will help in communicating with other staff members and conducting meetings.

Vice President of Finance

John Quackenbush
Junior Accounting Major

The first of three candidates for the position of VP of Finance, Quackenbush, junior accounting major, is best known and recognized on campus for his participation with athletics. During his sophomore year, Quackenbush served as Athletic Representative to ASSU, in addition, he has also served on the Student Athlete Advisory committee for two years.

"I want to get back involved with something at SU," said Quackenbush. "Along with that I feel like my financial background would allow me to represent Seattle University well."

Currently, Quackenbush is working on creating a budget for all of the greater Seattle area Goodwill industries, in addition to being a full time student.

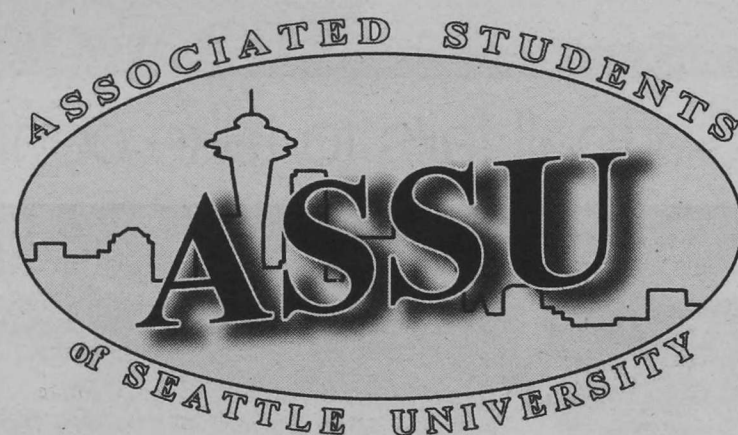
"Knowledge of ASSU and my financial knowledge will tell me how to streamline my goals, and how to produce better results," said Quackenbush.

Basing his campaign on a more streamlined approach to appropriations, he hopes to make the budgeting process for all student clubs and organizations at Seattle University more efficient.

"[I want to work toward a] better allocation of funds, through budgeting and through appropriations, and through that get more students involved, by letting everyone know, that they can join a club, or start a club and get appropriated," said Quackenbush.

Kai Smith
Junior Political Science and History Major

Though as of press time Wednesday morning, Kai Smith, junior political science and history



major, is still not officially on this year's ballot, he has begun his campaign with the hope of having a bill passed in this week's representative assembly, which would allow him to run for office, even though he is not currently a full time student. The bill is expected to pass.

Though Smith had been a full time student prior to this year, for the past two quarters he has been living in Montana, and working for the state auditor, and experience he called "financing and auditing in the real world."

If elected Smith asserts that he will work with and for the clubs on campus. Specifically he claims his goals will be to speed up the appropriations process, improve communication with clubs and student organizations and to create a better understanding for all students for how money is budgeted and distributed on campus.

"[Another] priority is securing new scholarships for students that have jobs," said Smith. "Many students work a lot and because they are busy working they are not able to fully participate in clubs and organizations on campus."

Although Smith has been removed for the Seattle University campus for the past few months, he does not believe that it has distance him from the feelings or the needs of students. He claims that a lot of clubs frustrations stem from a misunderstanding of the financing process, and from a lack of guidance, two problems that he says he will fix if elected.

"I will guarantee that financing will be fair and efficient, they will know where we stand, and they can find a way to finance whatever project they have," said Smith.

Min Kim
Junior Political Science and International Studies Major

As the final candidate for VP of Finance, Min Kim junior political science and international studies major, has based his campaign on increasing funds for activities geared toward all students.

"Every weekend I want to have fun with students, I want to establish activities for students, every weekend, not just once a month, I want to support those activities, that is one of my goals," said Kim.

Kim served for nearly a quarter this past fall as International Representative, before stepping down because of an inability to completely perform his job

functions. Though Kim does not have any specific experience relating to finance, accounting or budgeting, he does not perceive it as a potential problem.

"I think I have enough knowledge in order to control the finances, I can talk to Young [Truong] or Zach [Waud] whenever I face a problem, I am smart enough to be efficient," said Kim.

In addition to his goals of increasing the funding for events such as dances, and weekend activities such as ice skating nights, Kim hopes to bridge the gap between executives, representatives and students.

"The people are going to love us for what we are going to do; they are going to love our structure," said Kim.

Vice President of Student Affairs

Natalie Sheils
Freshman Math Major

Running uncontested for the position of VP of Student Affairs, Natalie Sheils, freshman math major, appears ready to take the reigns of a positions which deals directly and immediately with student life and experience. Through the position Sheils will be working with clubs and organizations, to help them meet their goals, while at the same time acting as a liaison between student organizations, student government and the Seattle University administration.

"What really interested me was this was a position where I could find projects in the school and within ASSU where I would have the freedom to work on them and to pick the projects that really needed to be addressed," said Sheils.

Over the past year, Sheils has served as the freshman representative to ASSU, has put on events such as the SU skating night, and has held three forums for the freshman class. Sheils will draw upon her experience from this past year, however instead of dealing primarily with issues relating to the freshman class, she will be dealing with issues that affect the entire student body.

"What I would really like to work on is communication with clubs, a lot of clubs have run into the same issues and problems, if I can become the point person for them, that is something that I would really like to work on," said Sheils. "My hope is that I can impact all of the students, and address their concerns."

Prince Somsanith, testament to Laos

Emily Holt
Staff Writer

"As a doctor, I helped people to live; as an artist, I give them a reason to live."

These eloquent words are those of one of the last surviving members of the Royal Court in Laos, Prince Nithakhong Somsanith — a man who, during his life, not only practiced medicine with mentally impaired children in France, but has also mastered the ancient art of gold embroidery.

Somsanith was in Seattle April 14, visiting the Wing Luke Asian Museum in the International District to present the traditional craft activity of banana leaf floral arrangements on his tour of American cities. He works with the Lao Heritage Foundation in an effort to revive respect for the cultural traditions of Laos in the present, sometimes disconnected, generation of youth.

The Spectator sat down with Somsanith and heard the artist's story. Pom Khampradith, a community and public relations representative for from the Lao Heritage Foundation, translated from French and Lao for the prince. They have had a working relationship since 2004.

Somsanith was born in Luang Prabang, Laos, the former capital of the Kingdom of Laos prior to the 1975 communist takeover. The political past of his country forced the prince into a situation that forever shaped his life, and for which he is now grateful.

Originally a French colony, Laos came under Japanese control during World War II. WWII was a time of increased nationalism for the country during which attempts were made at communist and rightist coalition government. The year that the Vietnam War ended, the

coalition governments that had been struggling to maintain some self-control in Laos ended and the communist Laos People's Democratic Republic was formed.

Somsanith was educated in the arts in the Royal Court under the direction of the Queen Mother during the midst of the Vietnam War. His family served as a bastion of cultural preservation at a time when everything was being done to tear it apart.

When he was in his 20s Somsanith received his Doctorate in Pediatrics at the Sisavangvong University in Vientiane, Laos to appease his parents wishes and began to practice medicine. Laos, however, had been the most bombed country during the Vietnam War, leaving the politics and economy in shambles. Somsanith decided to leave his family to pursue higher education.

I listened to the
politics, but heard
the culture.

Nithakhong Somsanith
Laotian Prince

"I listened to the politics, but heard the culture," he said. Somsanith left his homeland for France and entered his period of exile.

This move signaled the point in his life in which he chose to pursue art instead of medicine.

"My dream was to be an artist. My parents told me that I could find merit in medicine, and it was my duty as a son [to not forsake their wishes]," said Somsanith.

But his passion overtook him. He studied at the Institute of Visual Arts in the University of Orleans

where he received his masters and also received his Doctorate in Psychology from the Paris Sorbonne University. He continued to practice medicine, using art therapy with the children, while developing himself as an artist during his university years.

The prince describes his time in France as the hardest time in his life.

"Each day, my biggest problem was to survive. Each day I woke up, and thought, 'Here I am.'" said Somsanith. "As a refugee, you don't have a lot of material things. You feel empty. It teaches you to face yourself, and look at yourself differently. It makes you ask the question of who you are."

Sitting comfortably with his legs crossed, in khakis, a loose linen shirt, and silk scarf, his Southpark socks peeking out from his loafers, Somsanith talked with confidence and pride about his past, laughing with the face of one younger than his salt-and-pepper hair revealed.

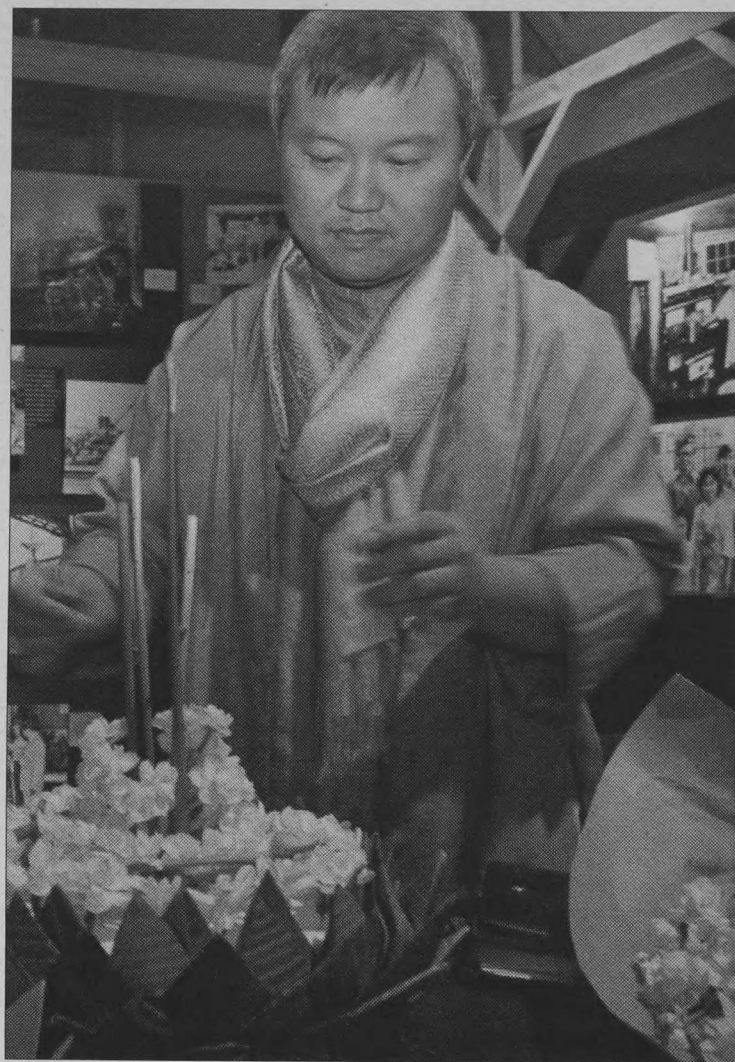
He advised that the best way for one to know one's life is to live away from it.

"Life is a small thing. It could disappoint. It could change," he said. "But life is a beautiful thing. And life can start anew. It doesn't have to be the same. You can pick up the pieces and go."

The prince never expected that he would actually become an artist, but once he was one, he saw that art changes the way that people see the world.

"An artist is a witness to social change. He [or she] is not alone in his [or her] own world," said Somsanith. "The artist is a reflection of society and needs to manifest what is going on."

Somsanith's gold embroidery is a testament to his culture and people. Trained in gold-thread embroidery in the Royal Court under the



Britten Stark

The Spectator

Laotian Prince Nithakhong Somsanith demonstrates a banana leaf floral arrangement at the Wing Luke Museum last week.

mentorship of the Queen Mother, the prince continues his art today with fervor.

His advice to young artists is to "dream and follow your dream, even if it is different from the rest of people's. Believe and have confidence in what you can do."

Through his work with the Lao Heritage Foundation and the Champa House in Laos, Somsanith works with youth to help them find the art form that they have confidence in. He described himself as a "rambunctious" child, and embroidery was the one thing that he could go to time in times of hardship to think clearly. He hopes other chil-

dren can find what he did.

"My art has been a bridge — a link to different events and people," he said.

The prince was excited to be in Seattle because he sees Laos and Seattle both as crossroads for immigrant cultures. Somsanith's long term goal is to have a center for Laos culture here in Seattle.

When asked why Seattleites should learn about the culture of Laos, he simply replied: "It is part of humanity. It is not necessary...but something innate. Primordial."

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Immigration protest in Tacoma



Jackie Canchola

The Spectator

SU students show their strong feelings against the immigration proposal outside of the Detention Center, in Tacoma. Every second Saturday of the month, organizations protest peacefully outside the guarded gates, where over 2,000 people are being held.

St. Ignatius rounds out decade

More important than celebrating the Chapel's splendor, the anniversary will celebrate the faith community that gathers there week in and week out.

"The Chapel of St. Ignatius has become a central gathering area for reflection, prayer and contemplation for the university," said President Stephen Sundborg, S.J. "It has brought students, community members and visitors of different faiths and backgrounds together to join in prayer during times of both sorrow and joy."

DeCastro explained the community's importance in more common terms.

"The Chapel would be pretty useless if people did not gather there," he said.

Considered an architectural masterpiece by experts in the field, the Chapel of St. Ignatius is a Seattle landmark. A model of the chapel will soon become a permanent part of the Museum of Modern Art in New York City.

Holl, a Bremerton native and graduate of the University of Washington, created the Chapel a

year before what is considered his greatest work, the Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art in Helsinki, Finland.

Andrea Wong, liturgical music coordinator, received her undergraduate degree in Architecture, and so has an understanding for both the spiritual and physical beauty that the Chapel holds.

"I liken it to a treasure chest," said Wong. "It's the encasement for many, many, beautiful things."

Seattle, long harassed for its lack of architecture, holds the Chapel in high regard.

"As an artist-designed place of worship, it ranks in significance with the Matisse Chapel in the South of France and the Rothko Chapel in Houston," said the San Francisco Chronicle.

The Chapel of St. Ignatius holds a special place to all types of different people. Those involved with architecture admire its physical beauty, while those involved in the faith community understand the spiritual glory inherent in "seven bottles of light in a stone box."

"The beauty and spirit of the Chapel comes from the people

come there as well as from the architecture," said Wong.

Five major events will mark the 10 year anniversary of the Chapel and the community that gathers there.

The Alumni Day of Prayer will take place on April 21 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Several Seattle University graduates as well as a graduate from Gonzaga University will present to those attending.

Later on that same day, all alumni couples married in the Chapel are invited to renew their marriage vows from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m., with a reception following.

The Peregrine Medieval Vocal Ensemble plans to perform Gregorian chants and harp music on April 22 from 2 pm until 3:30 pm.

On the following Sunday, the liturgy of both masses will focus on the Chapel's anniversary, and on May 2 Jerry Cobb, S.J. will give the 11 Annual Maguire Lecture from 5:45 until 8:30. The speech will discuss how the Chapel of St. Ignatius is an "interrogative space."

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Students treat water for Thailand

Chris Kissel
Staff Writer

When Seattle University's chapter of the international Engineers Without Borders (EWB) finished building a dormitory in Mae Nam Khun, Thailand, in 2006, they assumed their work was finished. After all, it had taken two trips and thousands of dollars to finish the project, a facility that would house

That was before the water treatment system for the dormitory stopped working.

Since April 5, environmental engineering majors, their professors and others interested in EWB project have been working on the prototype for a new water treatment system for the dormitory. If all goes as planned, the prototype will replace the old system, serving simultaneously as a model for future environmental engineering projects.

The old treatment system, one of the only parts of the dormitory project that was not built by SU students, was of a design that, according to Chris Stoll, seemed like a good idea in theory but ultimately failed to serve its purpose.

"We recently got the water quality report, and the water was not adequately treated," said Stoll, junior environmental engineering major and president of the Society of Environmental Engineers and Scientists (SEES) at Seattle University.

Dr. Phillip Thompson, an associ-

ate professor and acting chair of the Civil and Environmental Engineering department who accompanied students from EWB on their initial trip to Thailand, brought the idea of building a replacement treatment system to Stoll and the members of SEES. These students, in turn, enlisted the help of at least 12 students and faculty members.

Thompson returned to Thailand last summer with a few students to help with the final bit of construction on the dormitories, a process that had been delayed by the tsunami of 2005. While there, the team discovered that the water treatment system for the building was not doing its job.

"Essentially, this water is runoff from the mountain, and so it's not surprising that there might be some dirt in it," said Thompson. "What was surprising was that the filters might not be doing what they were supposed to be doing."

Originally, SU's branch of EWB took on the construction of the dormitories, their first project as a club, in 2004. Because the village of Mae Nam Khun is situated in such a remote region of Thailand, educational programs and other government institutions have had a difficult time providing villages in this region with much-needed resources.

According to Thompson, five million people die per year from drinking water that is not adequately treated. For environmental engineers like Thompson, this is an

opportunity to address one of the most important issues facing the world today.

The system will provide 60 students and adults from a nearby school with clean drinking water, an accomplishment that cost about 3,000 dollars. Thompson also acknowledged that the club has received a significant amount of help from the Endowed Mission Fund, the College of Science and Engineering and ASSU.

In all, Stoll estimates that the current project will have taken about 14 hours to complete.

"When you design for a developing country, you have to think about what technology they have available, if it breaks, can you fix it, if it's easy to clean," said Stoll. "This design is incredibly easy to maintain."

When building a system such as this for a poverty-stricken area like Mae Nam Khun, the amount of money required for maintenance is also an important factor.

"The only expensive part is the UV disinfection, which, for the entire UV disinfection, costs around \$400 [...] about once every year," said Stoll.

The reality of having a water treatment system to maintain in the village of Mae Nam Khun means that the people who live in the dormitories will have to replace certain parts on their own.

"At some point, they're going to have to be self-sufficient in maintaining the [UV] bulb," said



Julie Ignacio

The Spectator

This device will be used to purify water in a SU-built Thai dormitory.

Thompson. "One of the things we're looking into is partnering with the civil engineering department at Chiang Mai University, which is about two or three hours from the village."

The water treatment device, which is designed to be both inexpensive to run, is actually a series of filters that will be treated with carbon to prevent organic material from getting into the water. The device is a proto-type which will be tested once it has been fully assembled. If the test is successful, the

EWB and SEES clubs hope to use similar devices in Nicaragua as part of their long-range plans.

This summer, once the device has been completed and successfully tested, it will be brought to Thailand, where it will replace the current water treatment system. The prototype will continue to be tested until Monday, when it will be displayed at the Student Center patio.

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Dispatches from Cambodia: the corrupt facts of life

Mike Phillips
Volunteer Writer

Phnom Penh itself is newsworthy, until you live here. Then, the throbbing madness of it starts to fade. The bizarre collision of power and poverty and tourists and money and history and violence starts to fade. Soon enough, even the city's spirit--its sharp, relevant shock--starts to fade.

And when you live here, there's plenty of news already. You don't need more tales of the spirit of a city untellable. Phnom Penh has more than 30 newspapers and there's no shortage of news to tell. The stories at times seem farcical, as if the participants were actors pantomiming the function of a country in often devastating, occasionally lethal ways.

The news this week started with the story of Hy Vuthy, a Free Trade Union organizer, who was gunned down outside a factory where he organized workers. This killing was seen as an effort at political intimidation, and was widely believed to have stemmed from a conflict with the government backed "union" at the factory.

Cambodia had already made international headlines the week before, with the emerging scandal surrounding the Extraordinary Chambers of the Courts of Cambodia, the United Nations backed body set up to try the former members of the Khmer Rouge that are still alive. In addition to intransi-

gency on basic defendant's rights issues, the government was revealed to have been demanding kickbacks of the Cambodian judges' salaries, shredding even the barest charade of independence.

On Thursday, a university lecturer was jailed and fined thousands of dollars for teaching from a book he wrote, which contains mention of some of the dodgier moments of the current regime. In a surreal display of the Cambodian justice system at work, the defendant's lawyer suggested that his client might just be insane, which the victim and his family rejected. The act harkens back to the farcical "Khmer Rouge Trials" held by the Vietnamese to justify their invasion, where defense attorneys routinely recommended the death penalty for their clients en abstenia.

The news, it seems, comes in cycles here. Outrage after outrage, scandal after scandal, extortion after extortion, day after day, week after week, and month after month. It has been years since Cambodia has had the semblance of a clean, stable, and reliable government.

The problem is highlighted on the front page of this weekend's Cambodia Daily. "The Long Road to Reform" is an article about the intransigence of Cambodia's government in responding to international criticism. But Cambodia's kleptocratic authoritarian regime hasn't changed in the face of that, and, as the article notes, neither has the growth in aid.

Cambodia's civil structure also needs work. Government employees are paid around \$30 a month, and it's hardly surprising to learn that around half of the government's revenues are collected "informally," in the form of the ever-sought "rice-money," donations to "humanitarian assistance projects" which help bureaucrats earning less than \$40 a month to afford expensive Lexus SUVs and dinners at the Raffles, Phnom Penh's most exclusive eatery.

Corruption is a fact of life here.

The corruption often takes on a very personal turn. The police here in Phnom Penh, says Sophead, a taxi driver, "think only about money."

Yesterday, he was on Monivong Boulevard, a major thoroughfare in Phnom Penh, when he saw a seven year old on a bike trying to cross the street. A large truck, emblazoned with the Cambodian Army's logo, slammed into the young boy, killing him.

Sophead was a few feet from the accident, and so was a policeman. The policeman promptly did what any good officer of the law does in this town: he physically turned around so as not to witness it, and moved away from the scene. Nonchalantly, the truck did the same

thing, and, without ever really stopping, drove off. Onlookers rushed onto the street to attend to boy.

"It happens a lot," says Sophead. "I am afraid because there are no consequences."

Sophead admits to understanding the action of the police, but still thinks it's a big problem that needs to be addressed.

"The police have family like everyone else, and he makes very little money, so he must be very corrupt," says Sophead. Police officers will frequently cite people for minor traffic infractions, for instance not using their left-hand turn signal, while ignoring aggressive and dangerous driving. Sophead says that whereas the actual government fine for an offence might be a dollar, the police will usually tack on an additional \$2-3 to supplement their own incomes.

But tangible signs of blatant corruption are also visible at the highest levels. Doug, who works for a local grassroots NGO, reports that the process to become licensed has been more than simply bureaucratic. So far, his NGO has refused to pay the \$800 in "rice money" sought by the Minister of Foreign Affairs in order to register. As a result, he's been hounded by calls and suspicious "inspections" by police officers.

It's in the news and it's on the streets. It's everywhere and on everyone's mind. Cambodia, is, in many ways, still a police state, though one with an elaborate facade. People disappear and die routinely, but

the causes are covered up. A monk involved in a protest this weekend had his throat slashed mysteriously and was cremated before an autopsy could be performed. The death was declared a suicide.

Corruption is a fact of life here, and taking care to understand whom you're dealing with is incredibly important. The only ones who don't seem to consider this are the international donors like the United States, the United Nations and other wealthy western countries. Instead of drawing down their support in response to growing authoritarianism, they're ratcheting it up. A recent measure authorized direct American bilateral funding to the Cambodian government, and the US military has agreed to provide resources and training to Cambodia's armed forces. Though the US does provide funding and support through some NGOs for political opposition groups, that support is marginal compared to the resources that they place at the hands of the government.

At the annual Government-Donor coordination meeting this past month, diplomats once again bemoaned the state of affairs and issued calls for change. But, since their protests contained exactly as many teeth as the ones before, the result, it seems, can be easily anticipated by everyone except the participants: more of the same.

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Attorney controversy grows

Michael Lis-Sette
Volunteer Writer

It has been called a "partisan witch-hunt" and defended as a "necessary investigation into possible malfeasance." There is, however, no denying the fact that the scandal that has erupted over the dismissal of eight United States Attorneys will not be fading away any time soon.

The origins of this controversy lay in a relatively little noticed and seemingly innocuous provision inserted into the USA PATRIOT Act Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005, signed into law by President George Bush on March 9, 2006.

Prior to this, anytime a vacancy arose in the U.S. Attorney's office the United States Attorney General was authorized to name a temporary replacement, whose term would last only 120 days. By this time, regardless of whether or not the president's nominee had been confirmed by the Senate, they would be required to step down. At this point the federal district court which oversaw the district with the vacancy would be empowered to name a temporary replacement.

This was changed with the modification of Section 546 of Title 28, United States Code via a clause written in to the PATRIOT Act reauthorization by Senator Arlen Specter (R-Pennsylvania), which stripped away both the expiration period for the Attorney General's interim appointees and the power of federal courts to name further. In addition, it authorized the person named by the Attorney General to remain in office until a presidential nominee could gain full approval.

The first appointment to occur under this authorization was that of Jeffrey A. Taylor, the interim United States Attorney of the District of Columbia, with Taylor being nominated by Attorney General Alberto Gonzales on Sept. 22, and being sworn in on the Sept. 29.

This was not the end of the

matter, however. On December 7, 2006, Michael A. Battle, director of the executive office for United States Attorneys, informed seven attorneys that they were being dismissed.

These seven were as follows: Kevin Ryan of the Northern District of California, Daniel Bogden of the District of Nevada, Carol Lam of the Southern District of California, David Iglesias of the District of New Mexico, Paul Charlton of the District of Arizona, Margaret Chiara of the Western District of Michigan, and John McKay of the Western District of Washington.

John McKay, who is currently serving as a visiting faculty member at Seattle University's Sullivan School of Law, remembers receiving that phone call very well.

"This phone call came out of the blue," McKay told The Spectator. "I had no indication that anyone at the Department of Justice had any problem with me or my performance, and I think that even at that moment I had a sense that there was more to it then might appear on the surface."

I wasn't given an explanation by the Department of Justice.

John McKay
Former U.S. Attorney

The first official public defense for these actions that was offered by members of the Bush administration came on Jan. 18, when Gonzales, testifying during before the Senate Judiciary Committee, said that they were dismissed because they had made "an evaluation about the performance of individuals, and I have a responsibility to the people in your district that we have the best possible people in these positions."

This, however, was contradicted when it was soon shown that six of the attorneys had received "positive"

job performance ratings in the past several months. In addition, Paul McNulty, deputy attorney general, confirmed suspicions that Henry "Bud" Cummins, the former US Attorney of the Eastern District of Arkansas, had been forced out to make room for Timothy Griffin during testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee early in February. It was also confirmed that Griffin had been selected due to his former status as an aid to Karl Rove, the President's current Deputy Chief of Staff.

This may not have been the only example of a dismissal occurring for political reasons.

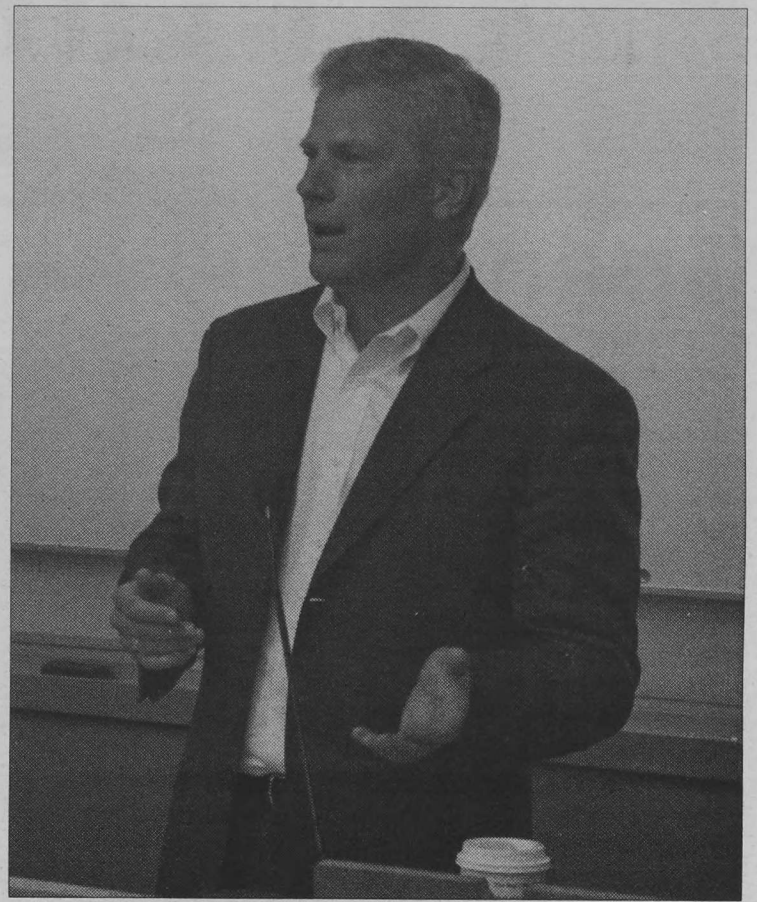
Rumors had been circulating that McKay was dismissed for failing to convene a federal grand jury in response to voter fraud allegations in the highly contested 2004 gubernatorial election here in Washington State, an opinion McKay himself voiced in a March 20 interview in the New York Times.

"Our office was evaluated for its performance, and Mr. McKay's activities and the activities of this office were found to be... a superior performing office," Langlie said.

"I wasn't given an explanation by the Department of Justice and I've never been given an explanation," said McKay when asked about this. "But I resigned because the President clearly had the authority to dismiss me, and I was being told that this was a decision by, quote, 'the administration.'"

McKay's reaction looks to be a legally sanctioned one, as US Attorneys do appear to serve more or less "at the pleasure of the President" according to some interpretations of section 541 of Title 28, U.S.C. Nonetheless, issues have been raised by the apparently political nature of the firings, and the possibility that some of the dismissals may have been done to interfere with criminal investigations of Republican politicians.

Among those who may have been dismissed for these reasons include Carol Lam, who had suc-



Julie Ignacio

The Spectator

John McKay, one of the eight U.S. Attorneys controversially dismissed last year, currently teaches at the Seattle University School of Law.

cessfully prosecuted Congressman Duke Cunningham (R-California). There is also Bud Cummins, who was investigating the Republican Governor of Missouri, Matt Blunt, on possible corruption charges. Finally, there is David Iglesias, who had reportedly been pressured by Congresswoman Heather Wilson (R-New Mexico) and Senator Pete Domenici (R-New Mexico) to speed up indictments in a federal corruption investigation involving Democrats prior to the '06 elections. Iglesias claims that his decision not to do so, announced to Domenici during a telephone conversation, likely led to his dismissal.

In the past few weeks, the reach of this scandal seems to be expanding ever further into the power circles of Washington D.C. Kyle Sampson, the former chief of staff and counselor to Gonzales, testifying before Congress that Gonzales had signed off on the firings, contradicting the Attorney General's previous statements about his involvement in the dismissals.

In addition, Monica Goodling, a counsel Gonzales, made a rather abrupt about-face on March 26, deciding to invoke her Fifth Amendment right to refuse to answer questions so as to avoid self-incrimination, despite her earlier decision to testify along with Sampson. Relatively recently, Goodling resigned from the Justice Department on April 6, writing in her letter of resignation to Gonzales "may God bless you richly as you continue your service to America."

Some are already looking past these events and towards the future, wondering what the long term impact on the Justice Department will be. Not all, however, hope that there will be one.

McKay gave voice to his thoughts on the question of what the long term aftereffects of this scandal will be.

"My real hope is that there is no long term impact at the Department of Justice," he said. "The department has a long and proud history of being nonpolitical in its case prosecutions. What happened here

is apparently that there are people who don't understand the importance of that tradition. It is important that things not be allowed to be left this way and that we return to the old tradition of nonpolitical prosecution of crime."

He also explained that if given the chance to return to his former position, he would not do so.

"I appreciate very much that some, including Congressman Reichert and Congressman Inslee, and perhaps others have called for me to be reinstated," he said. "[But] I think that it's very unlikely that I will return to the United States Attorney's office."

It's very unlikely that I will return to the U.S. Attorney's office.

John McKay
Former U.S. Attorney

McKay says his focus will now be on his students.

"I am very happily teaching law here at SU... I think it's a very good thing for me to do with my life. I hope that the others have their jobs offered back to them; I don't expect it will happen, but I think it would be a fair thing that all of us be offered our jobs back, whether we would take them or not."

On Monday, April 10, the House Judiciary Committee issued subpoenas for documents related to the dismissals controversy, being unsatisfied with information provided in heavily redacted versions of the documents already released.

As many as five million of the requested emails may be unavailable due to their apparently having been erased, as claimed by the Republican National Committee. Where this argument, and this entire section of this rather broad controversy, shall go remains to be seen.

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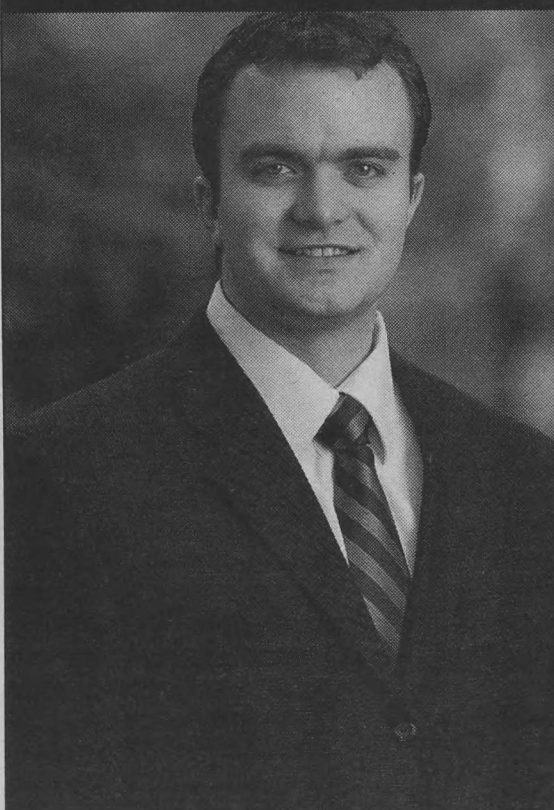
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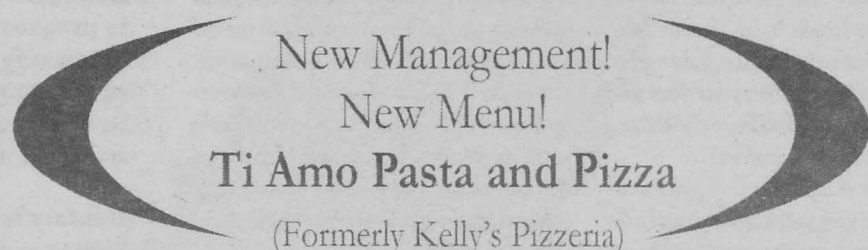
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Fr. Stephen Sunborg, S.J.
President, Seattle University
901 12th Ave.
Seattle, WA 98122

2/12/07

Dear Fr. Sundborg,

It is with continued concern that I write again in regards to the "newspapers" the Stranger and The Weekly being distributed on the Seattle University campus. I am wondering if you have ever really seen what is in these "newspapers" on a regular basis. I am enclosing a couple of items, including ads for an abortion clinic and Planned Parenthood that appear alongside provocative pictures and articles encouraging an attitude of frivolous sexual behavior. This is not, in my estimation, ironic, but a purposeful and disturbed abuse of First Amendment "rights".

I wonder if allowing this to continue on the Seattle University campus isn't more hurtful than you might think. How does it fit with, for example the university mission statement, "Seattle University is dedicated to educating the whole person, to professional formation, and to empowering leaders for a 'just and humane' world"? How can you proclaim such a noble and righteous idea and then ignore it when such ignoble, unjust, and so often inhumane smut comes on campus in the form of these "newspapers"? Actions always speak louder than words. Is the university not willing to walk its talk?

If the vision of the university is, "We will be the premier independent university of the northwest in academic quality, 'Jesuit Catholic inspiration' and service to society", how is that served by allowing the Stranger and The Weekly to be distributed publicly on campus? It would be a positive sign, would it not, if its removal were couched in the language of either the Mission Statement, or the Vision Statement of the university? The paper is readily available off campus. It seems to me that Seattle University ought to be a counter-cultural leader in the struggle against any efforts to diminish the value of the human person. Seattle University can and ought to be a clear and courageous defender of human dignity in every way, it should not be weak and passive in the struggle for human dignity and the infinite respect it deserves. It would be both Jesuit and Catholic in inspiration, and it would be a small step in the important duty to be in "service to society" to remove these offensive items from the Seattle University campus with a strong and confidently stated explanation as to the reasons for their removal.

Thank you for reading my thoughts. I will thank you even more if you find them important enough to remove these materials from the Seattle University campus.

Sincerely, *Paul J. McKillop*
Paul McKillop

The President of Seattle University has chosen not to respond to my following concerns and the editor of this newspaper believes that the content is not newsworthy. Therefore, I have taken the liberty to pay \$273.60 to purchase this advertising space to voice my concerns.

More than just a party for potheads

Lauren Padgett
Features Editor

Megan Peter
Managing Editor

There is one hot August day that Seattle subculture anticipates all year. It involves Myrtle Edwards Park, a few great musical acts, some political activity and plenty of green.

That means a lot of marijuana.

Cannabis, hemp, pot, weed, however you want to reference it, the natural plant has captivated Seattle so much that the politically-charged Hempfest has become one of the most powerful pro-marijuana organizations in America.

However, don't accuse Hempfest of only promoting recreational smoking. The organization primarily advocates legalization of medicinal marijuana and the utilization of hemp by-products.

Interestingly, the fight for legalization in terms of recreational use is pretty low on the Hempfest agenda.

"There is a lot of misplaced criticism of [Hempfest] being a drug party, not an activist group," said AnnaLisa LaFayette, Hempfest event coordinator. "Hemp and marijuana are for patients first."

But some students on campus do not have that same positive image of

the organization.

"They are just a bunch of dirty hippies who are not very good spokespeople for the legalization of medical marijuana," said Corey Torgersen, senior mechanical engineering major. "It is not the way to [get their agenda accomplished]. It just sends out the wrong message."

Other students on campus also agree that the message that most people get of Hempfest does not match the image the organization would like portrayed.

"All I ever heard about it was people getting high," said Rochelle LeMieux,

cannabis Hempfest movement. First released in 1985, Herer argues for cannabis decriminalization in America based upon hemp's proven benefits, which include fuel creation, medicinal and food usage.

The roots of hemp blacklisting in America stem from government restriction and societal prejudices.

"Money from oil, paper and pharmaceutical companies have everything to lose if hemp were legalized," LaFayette said. "It's cheaper than oil, grows faster than trees, is non-carcinogenic and has more beneficial uses than I can count."

The leftist organization has a backbone of support from medicinal marijuana advocates, recreational pot smokers and the entertainment industry for coverage of their campaign. Interestingly enough, LaFayette finds that it is not the religious conservatives who shout the loudest in the debate; rather that voice belongs to the big industry lawyers and lobbyists. They tend to have the federal government in their corner.

"The fact that hemp and marijuana are illegal can give you a clear idea of how successful large corporations really are at controlling the government for their financial interests," said LaFayette.

Despite this feeling of support that the organization might feel as though they have. Some still think that events

like Hempfest do not help with the integrity of the causes.

"Though medical marijuana may be a [good] cause, Hempfest, might not be the best way to gain credibility," said Phoebe Rohrbacher, senior visual arts major. "It might not be the best way to reach the people who will have an impact on changing the law. The people voting on this are probably not going to go to Hempfest."

But what is Hempfest then?

What began as a "humble little gathering of stoners" in 1991 has evolved into a cohesive organization, with year-round volunteers and marijuana advocates who raise money and awareness to their cause.

The first year of Hempfest drew 500 people and was created by about 20 volunteers. Last year, over 150,000 people attended the 14th annual Hempfest. While drugs and alcohol may flow in secret abundance at the event, there were no arrests.

Last year Hempfest celebrated on four stages with musical performances, guest speakers and political activists. Musical guests included The Kottonmouth Kings and Rehab; featured speeches and presenters come from everywhere, such as Magic Black-Ferguson from "Grannies for Ganja" and Seattle City Council member Peter Steinbrueck.

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Courtesy miscomedia.com

freshman pre-major. "But if their causes are more legit they should change their image. If everyone associates it with [only] getting high, they will not be effective in the long run."

Nonetheless LaFayette still finds inspiration to continue the fight the cause. She cites Jack Herer's book "The Emperor Wears No Clothes" as an essential motivator for the pro-

I-75 walks the line of legislative legality

Michael Magidman
Staff Writer

"An Ordinance to Establish a Sensible Marijuana Law Enforcement Policy in Seattle," also called Initiative 75, acquired affirmation from 58 percent of Seattle voters in 2003.

So what exactly is a sensible marijuana policy?

The initiative established that taxpayers being "burdened by the substantial costs of investigating, arresting, prosecuting and jailing people for charges involving marijuana" is not sensible policy.

It established that federal education loans denied to middle and lower-income students based on marijuana charges is not prudent. It established that the over 700,000 drug arrests in the U.S. in 2000 relating to marijuana are not reasonable. It also established that it's not judicious that the "failures and harms of the Drug War" have fallen most heavily on minorities and low-income communities.

Given all that, it's pretty clear that this initiative aims to ameliorate the effects caused by our illogical marijuana policy.

However, I-75 technically did not in change marijuana law at all; it simply changed how it is enforced. Subsection A dictates how the Seattle Police Department and the City Attorney's Office are to handle marijuana crimes.

The law and order in Seattle is to make "investigation, arrest and prosecution of marijuana offenses...the City's lowest law enforcement priority."

However, the phrase omitted from the last sentence provides a clue as to which of pot smokers around the city will breathe easiest as a result of the initiative. It reads, "...where the marijuana was intended for adult

personal use."

This initiative is mostly directed towards encouraging the city to look the other way while our stoner friends over the age of 18 get lifted. This leads us to believe that minors and dealers can still expect to see a stern face from Johnny Law.

In attempt to asses the effectiveness of this new "sensible" strategy, Subsection B of the initiative called for the creation of an 11 member council known as the Marijuana Policy Review Panel.

This motley crew is comprised of two City Council members, two citizen members, one drug abuse prevention counselor, one harm reduction advocate,

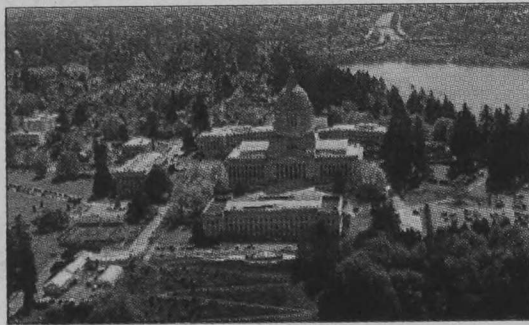
one representative from the Seattle Police Department, two criminal defense attorneys, one member of the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office and one member of the City Attorney's Office, all appointed by the President of the City Council.

The Marijuana Policy Review Panel

(MPRP), which meets quarterly or as necessary, created criteria for the Seattle Police Department and the City Attorney's Office to report marijuana arrests and prosecutions. The MPRP was also called on to comprised a comprehensive written report with "information concerning the public safety, public administration, public health and fiscal impacts" of subsection A. The text of the initiative says the report should be completed and "completed and presented at the first meeting of the full City Council for calendar year 2006."

However, the panel has extended the deadline for the report until June 30, 2007.

One of the main reasons for the panel turning their report in late is the analysis of the "fiscal impacts."



Courtesy ws.wa.gov

Washington state capitol where I-75 was passed

Included in the report is supposed to be an analysis of the impact of the initiative on tax payers, as well as a comparison of the amount of money directed towards processing marijuana cases before and after the initiative passed. However, the members have agreed that in "most cases the panel will not be able to determine a cost [of processing marijuana cases and of the panel's existence]."

Staffing hours, for example, would normally be included in the cost, however the staff would be working the same amount of hours as they would were they not processing marijuana cases.

The panel aims to review such discrepancies in the data and release the report by the end of June, and until then a larger assessment of the initiative's precise impact on the public remains foggy.

As for the practical implementation of the initiative, according to the meeting minutes from Nov. 20, 2006 the Seattle Police Department "has issued no written policy describing what effect I-75 should have on the activities of police officers." They simply reiterated subsection A of the initiative to the officers.

It would seem that this initiative is more of a wink and a nod than a formal written directive.

If this is the case, how can the Seattle voters who aided in approving this initiative be sure that their voice is actually becoming the will of the law and isn't simply swarmed over by bureaucracy?

According to the minutes from the meeting on Oct. 11 2006, Tom Carr, the panel representative from the City Attorney's Office, responded to a question regarding the difficulty of implementing the initiative first by citing contradictions with other laws (federal and local) but then moving to assure that "the law is being implemented in good faith."

Other cities such as Missoula, San Francisco, Oakland, Santa Monica and Santa Cruz have similar laws that make the pursuit of the adult friends of Mary Jane a low priority.

Mike can be reached at magidman@seattleu.edu

Lauren Padgett
Features editor

Where did 420 come from? Some say it was a mouse with pot smoking? So in the facts, but in the mystique. As one stoner said on the H meaning of 420, or where it came compared to the feeling of But just for fun, we thought myths about 420 anyways.

Lauren can be reached at padgett@seattleu.edu

It is believed to have originated in the Los Angeles Police Department in progress.

In actuality, the 420 L.A. police obstructing entry upon or So what is the California H smoking, or using any illicit

It refers to the number of THC is actually a single chemical. 420 different ones. Different thousands of chemicals. Different course.

The Grateful Dead lived at Ashbury in the late '60s.

The San Francisco Bay City that the Dead lived at 710 H confirmed by a few slightly

Jerry Garcia of the Grateful People Magazine (August 1991) actually died Weds., Aug.

420 means "teatime" in the 1940s. Actually, the time is closer to celebrates teatime, too.

The first time marijuana was used in 420 B.C.

2737 B.C. is frequently referred to the documentation of the Chinese treaty by Emperor Shun reference of cannabis dating back to Rome.

It was the day Albert Hofmann discovered the drug was first synthesized in Basel, Switzerland in 1938. April 16, 1943 when Hofmann ate 250 micrograms of it. He never recorded "for science"

Adolf Hitler was born on April 20, 1889. True, Hitler was born on the 20th, but the legend that he represents everything that is wrong with the world. So smoking on his birthday is a nod to Hitler.

It was started by a bunch of people in California who would get high. In the early 1970s, a group of people at the University of California High School in San Rafael, California, started a tradition of smoking marijuana every day. They were led by a teacher named Mr. T. The tradition of 420 is the most common and most widely verified.

When Tylenol is timed out: a look at marijuana

Chris Kissel
Staff writer



Courtesy indymedia.us

Marijuana, a drug that has been illegal in the United States since 1937, is well-known for its calming psychoactive effects on the human nervous system.

It is often used to treat a wide variety of ailments, from the crippling pain associated with head and neck injuries to the loss of appetite that accompanies AIDS and certain types of cancer. Despite this fact, marijuana remains criminalized through the US.

Critics of the drug insist that besides its harmful effects on the lungs and respiratory system, marijuana can cause significant mental impairment. This is due to its effects on the hippocampus, a part of the brain dedicated to memory and learning.

Others insist that there are serious medical advantages to the use of marijuana.

One woman from the Seattle area (who preferred to be known only as "Judy") has been using medicinal marijuana since she was diagnosed with Hepatitis-C several years ago. She is currently administering at least four different forms of the drug to herself for the pain that she experiences as a result of this disease, as well as effects of a brain injury she suffered while working at a local grocery store.

"I wake up in extreme pain, and I go to sleep in extreme pain," said Judy. "Sometimes I'll wake up and I'm extremely nauseous and I just can't get out of bed. So, I'll try a medication that will give me the energy to get up and function for a couple of hours, at least."

In Washington, a person must be judged eligible by a physician before they can legally possess the drug. The doctor must determine, first and foremost, that the health benefits involved in the use of marijuana for a certain condition outweigh the risks. The patient, who is deemed to be debilitated or terminally under certain specifications, must carry authorization at all times to claim immunity under state law.

In order to receive a legal document that qualifies one to legally possess marijuana, a person must demonstrate to a certified doctor that they suffer from one in a list of ailments that includes cancer, HIV and AIDS, glaucoma, and multiple sclerosis, among other specific conditions.

Those who have obtained a permit for the use of medicinal marijuana are not always 100 percent free from the arm of the law, however. This is because federal law still prohibits use of marijuana, for medicinal purposes or any other.

"I have often had law enforcement call and question us about the permits," said one woman who works for The Hemp and Cannabis Foundation (THCF) in Bellevue. "We always tell our patients to keep a low profile."

For those who feel that marijuana is the best medicinal option, there are still other legal constraints on what they can and cannot do. Currently, there are a few bills being hammered out in Washington's State Congress to clarify how exactly medicinal marijuana practices can be carried out.

"The actual practice has been to arrest and charge because of a lack of specificity in the existing laws," said John Strait, an associate professor of law at the Seattle University Law School. "There has been an effort, not entirely successful yet, to get to at least some agreement as to what the quantities and sources that are allowed are, and what actually has

to be given to you by a doctor or other qualifying medical professional."

Politically, the issue of marijuana has had a difficult time making progress. This is because of stigma and vested interests in the minds of legislators, an attitude that has caused current laws to be particularly unclear.

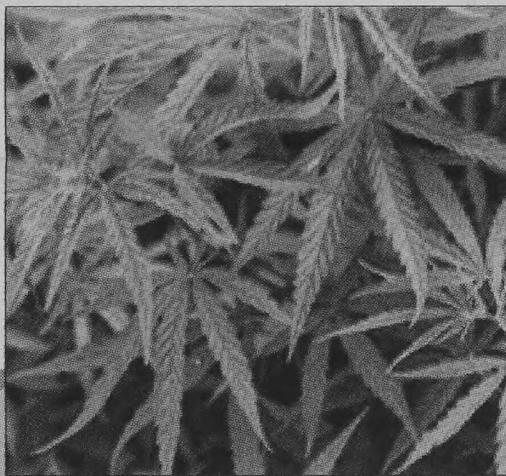
"It's a difficult political problem, because very few legislators feel comfortable voting for marijuana. So, it has been difficult, even though the prosecutors and civil liberties people are in general agreement about what needs to be done," said Strait.

Under the current Washington State Medical Marijuana Act, doctors can do little but recommend the use of the drug, and patients may only possess it as long as their doctor is convinced that medical marijuana can legitimately help them with their pain.

THCF, which operates mainly out of Portland, Oregon, advertises its services on the back page of *The Stranger*. The organization primarily employs doctors who authorize patients for use of medicinal marijuana.

The foundation also maintains a website that provides visitors with information on how to legally obtain marijuana.

The site streams 400+ videos in a series called "Cannabis Common Sense," videos that feature, among other things, dancing cannabis leaves and Power Point slide shows of massive marijuana plants (accompanied by live acoustic guitar). Groups like THCF promote federal legalization of marijuana and, according to the disheveled host of Cannabis



Courtesy growbrain.com

Common Sense, a little "Berlin Wall-type action." "It's quite clear that the pendulum is swinging, to some degree," said Strait. "But, at least based on most demographic studies, the answer is 'not yet.'"

Judy, who uses marijuana most often in the form of a medical tea, says that without the drug, she would not be able to get through her day.

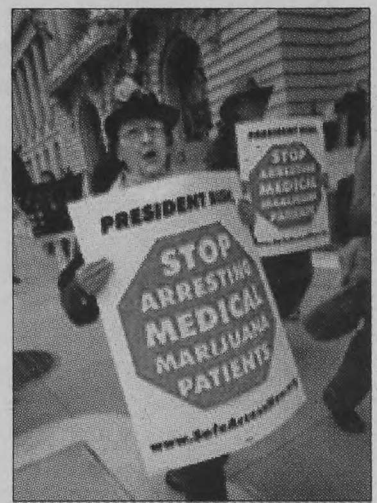
"If I medicate in the morning, it will calm me down a bit and I can focus on speaking and keeping my words and sentences together," said Judy. "It just gives me more focus and helps me function, just so I can get simple things done."

Judy indicated that even though she was assaulted on the job, she could not be compensated because the marijuana she was using to minimize Hepatitis-induced nausea was detected on a drug test. Many medicinal marijuana users also have a difficult time dealing with employers who make use of random drug tests or implement policies regarding drug use and worker's compensation.

Although a person may be authorized to use marijuana, there are few options for someone who is looking to purchase it for medicinal use. Under state law, no definition of what entities can lawfully provide marijuana. This is a problem that many, like Judy, find to be a frustrating obstacle standing between their desire to lead normal lives and their agonizing physical pain.

"Think about an older person who has been diagnosed and told that they can use marijuana," said Judy. "Where can they go to get their medicine?"

The THCF agrees that the most important thing for someone to do, if they have been authorized to use



Courtesy beyondchron.org

marijuana, is to educate themselves on the matter. Most important, and the issue that is most difficult for those who seek out medicinal marijuana, is that a patient find a co-op or herbal dispensary that will discreetly provide them with the means to ease their pain.

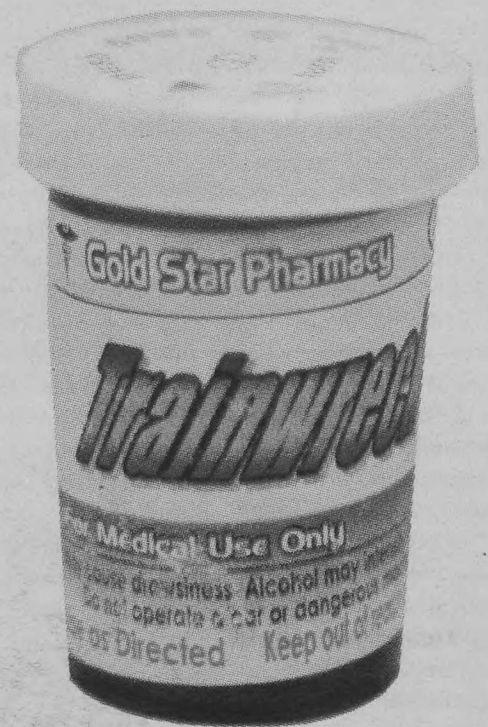
Co-ops in Washington run the risk of shutting down at any time because of the ambiguity of the medicinal marijuana laws.

"The problem is that the co-ops are vulnerable," said Strait.

So, while legislators debate the future of laws governing medicinal marijuana in Washington, those who depend on the drug lie in wait. People who use the drug frequently are just hoping for the legal clarity that will give them a chance to relax.

"These are people who are sick," said Judy. "Those of us who are sick really don't need this kind of havoc in our lives. We just want to get well."

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Jackie Canchola

The Spectator

Editor's Note:

The Spectator does not endorse any illegal activity nor does it support breaking state, federal or campus law. The Spectator offers the aforementioned information as an impartial observer — it does not condone the use or abuse of altercating substances.

Weds., April 18

MC Frontalot
7 p.m.
El Corazon

Thurs., April 19

A Fashion Nightmare!
With fashion from
The Crypt, Metro off
Broadway
\$8
8 p.m.
El Corazon

Martin Sexton, Jonah
Smith
\$25, 21+
8 p.m.
The Showbox

Xiu Xiu, Sunset Rubdown
\$10
8 p.m.
Neumos

Fri., April 20

Save Our Speech: 4/20
Hempfest Benefit The
Herbivores, Panda
Conspiracy, High Ceiling
\$12, 21+
7 p.m.
Little Red Studio

Rocky Votolato, Slender
Means
\$12
8 p.m.
Neumos

Masquerade 5, featuring
Chris Mayhem, Frankie
Dubs
\$25
8 p.m.
Studio Seven

Sun., April 22

Mute Math, The
Cinematics
7 p.m.
\$16
Neumos

Tysen, A Chance Without
\$10
6:30 p.m.
El Corazon

April 20 - 22

Seattle Poetry Festival
2007, featuring opening
night performances by
Gabriel Teodros and
Abyssinian Creole
Richard Hugo House,
Pravada Studios
www.poetryfestival.org

Making the rounds, Limbeck hits Seattle

Rob La Gatta
News Editor

A lot has changed for Limbeck in the past decade.

The Southern California-based group has gone through four studio albums (culminating with their self titled disc that came out last Tuesday), two drummers and countless days of touring to become what they are today: a mature rock group that seamlessly twists the music of our parents' generation into a fun, new and distinctly American sound of their own.

The hard work has paid off for this foursome, who played at El Corazon on Saturday night as part of a nationwide tour with Hot Rod Circuit. On "Limbeck" (Doghouse, 2007) the group has finally allowed the Americana, country-rooted sound that was starting to rear its head on "Let Me Come Home" (Doghouse, 2005) come to fruition. Taking it a step further on "Limbeck" – and holding nothing back, musically or lyrically – the band has finally set the standard in a genre that they've essentially created, piecing together musical influences spanning across three decades and 50 states.

"I think it's our biggest step we've made and probably our best effort to date," said Patrick Carrie, guitarist for the group, before they went on stage last Saturday. "I think we've just really grown up together through the past 10 years playing together, and right now we're really recognizing where we're coming into as musicians."

Influences are also important, said Robb McLean, vocalist.

"It just kind of goes in a lot of different directions that we haven't been before," he said, taking a break from drinking at the bar. "A lot of it comes from '70s Beach Boys, and [we're] just really into T-Rex and Electric Light Orchestra. And that was definitely not on the records before."

Taking such influences, many of which already scream of a uniquely

domestic rock sound, and skewing them for a 21st century audience is no small feat, but one that Limbeck has gracefully accomplished on their new record. From the opening seconds of the first track "Trouble" – which builds to a climax before exploding into piano driven pop rock – the audience experiences a breath of fresh air.

It only gets better as the album progresses, as Limbeck have managed to succeed where most band's fail at striking a balance between simplicity and excitement in their songs. McLean's lyrics are mostly about simple personal dilemmas, often related to traveling through the American landscape and those people and places he encounters along the way.

Yet the instrumentation that accompanies them is complex. While all songs are heavily country influenced (largely due to the guitar work of Carrie and McLean), it's the little things that make them unique: keyboards here, a washboard there, vocal harmonies scattered throughout. The inclusion of a pedal steel guitar, with its unique sound not frequently heard on modern rock records, is an incredible effect that does leagues for the album's sound.

"Patrick plays a lot of the instruments that aren't our usual forte, and then anything that he can't play we bring in friends to do it," said McLean of the non-traditional sounds found on the band's new album.

Their extensive background of American travels by van has helped develop their songwriting, but also translates well into their live performance. They don't just play their songs like they sound on the record; they recreate them, changing the accompanying instruments from night to night.

"We're not necessarily recreating exactly everything that's going on, but I love how we're playing a lot of these new record songs live," said Carrie. "It's fun to make things different live, and, you know, mix it up. If they

were the same you could just listen to the record."

Though their performance Saturday included music from "Limbeck," it also featured new takes on tracks from their two previous albums "Let Me Come Home" and "Hi, Everything's Great" (Doghouse, 2003). Songs from before that – specifically from their musically immature album "This Chapter Is Called Titles," a 2000 release that the band has all but disavowed – were nowhere to be found.

Though the venue was nowhere close to being sold out, Limbeck's casual stage presence, coupled with their call for audience participation in tracks like "Bird Problems," seemed to have everyone smiling at an unusually low-key evening at El Corazon. One Seattle University student in the audience, already a fan of the group, said she was even planning a venture down to Portland to view their performance the next night.



Jackie Canchola

The Spectator

Limbeck's Robb McLean, left and Patrick Carrie perform on the El Corazon stage last Saturday.

Joined on stage by Casey Prestwood of Hot Rod Circuit – who played pedal steel guitar and keyboard throughout their entire set – Limbeck brought new life to their older songs, layering them with new instrumentation and sometimes more complicated guitar work to add to the impact. It didn't matter that the band that opened for them, called The Forecast, had turned much of the audience off due to their generic style and an awful live mix.

When Limbeck came out the atmosphere changed dramatically: the instruments all sounded clean, the stage was festively decorated with bear piñatas and the band was at the perfect stage of being just drunk enough to play their songs better than they would sober.

Though their current tour keeps them on the road through the middle of May, Limbeck are already lining up plans for the summer. And, as should be expected from a group whose identity is defined by their interstate travels, those plans include touring...lots of touring.

"We'll definitely be doing another big – probably closer to two months – tour at the end of the summer," said Carrie. "And then we're trying to go overseas, to go back to Australia again, and then possibly over to Japan as well. That will be a first for us, which will freak us out...but I think we're all looking forward to it."

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MEXICO



international film series
ACADEMIC SALONS
seattleu.edu/academic/salons



THE EXTERMINATING ANGEL

Thursday 4/19 • 7pm • Pigott Auditorium



PRE-FILM RECEPTION

MEXICAN FOOD SERVED

Begins at 6:30pm • Paccar Atrium



POST-FILM DISCUSSION

KEN ALLAN

Asst. Professor of Art History



Do You Like the Night Life?

Night Porter for hire at downtown Seattle's four star, luxury boutique Hotel Vintage Park. 1100 5th Ave. Looking for good customer service skills, and must have a good driving record. Please contact, Janyce Volodkevich 206-516-5049. e-mail: janyce.volodkevich@hotelmonaco.com

Luke Wilson would rather be safe at home than sorry

Jessica Vangilder
Staff Writer

Luke Wilson's personal fears come to life in the new movie "Vacancy" when he gets stuck in a hotel with a broke-down car, his soon to be ex-wife and a creepy hotel manager.

Wilson's character, David, and Kate Beckingsale's character, Amy, lose their way off the interstate, leaving them stranded in a hotel in the middle of nowhere. They soon find they have to escape being the stars of a home-made snuff film that will leave them dead.

But David and Amy realize this a little too late.

In the course of the night David and Amy struggle to find ways to stay alive. The couple's history adds to the psychological suspense of the film, making the possibility of such an encounter seem more real for the audience.

In a foreboding line, the hotel night manager Mason says, "I can give you two the honeymoon suite for five dollars extra. Got a few perks that the others don't."

Aside from the "perk" of trying to save his life in his movie, Wilson



Photo Courtesy Yahoo Movies

Kate Beckingsale and Luke Wilson peek out of the window of their motel room in "Vacancy."

said even though he wished he had been more prepared physically for the role, it's the first movie that's ever really gotten him into shape.

The intensity of shooting a movie that takes place in one night, and returning to the same scene and set for months straight wore on Wilson more than any other movie he's worked on.

"I've never finished something and thought I earned a week of just sitting around," Wilson said. "It was the first time I'd ever felt like I really want to take a vacation."

In addition to getting in shape, Wilson said he felt accomplished after facing the challenge of this role and finishing the movie.

Best known for his comedic roles in movies like "My Super Ex-Girlfriend" and "The Royal Tenenbaums," Wilson is a regular on the quirky film circuit.

But as for the departure from the comic roles he usually takes, "the truth is it's more fun to work on comedies and I feel more at home doing them, but in terms of returning to the genre, if something were [to] come along I'd definitely give it a shot again."

While the role was physically taxing, creating the fear in the movie of crazy killers in desolate motels wasn't as difficult for Wilson.

"I've definitely been lost in the middle of nowhere. In the drive from Dallas to L.A. there's that stretch that's totally desolate, I'd always get scared out there. I always had the idea that there are killers out there driving around. It might just be me being scared, but I just feel like there's a strange energy out there sometimes."

Wilson admits he has a fear of motels in real life too, which usually

motivates him to drink more coffee and keep driving so that he doesn't have to stop.

"I was always nervous staying at motels. I always try and get a room that was up on the second floor where I can see the car," he said. "You're always kind of wondering what the hell's going on in those rooms."

While Wilson hasn't been in that kind of situation before, he doesn't like to travel without a companion.

"It is important to go with somebody because I really do believe there are just killers out there," Wilson said. "It just seems like I get that vibe when I'm out there in the middle of nowhere."

Although Wilson said he was nervous about taking the role, after some convincing Wilson signed on for the part, which he felt would be a struggle for him.

"It was a real challenge. Shooting something all over the course of one night with all that intensity. I hadn't even really had it that well thought out, every scene from the same night, being chased by someone who's trying to kill me...I hadn't really got my head wrapped around that."

Even when not in character, Wilson found the set frightening on its own. The film was shot on the same stage as "The Wizard of Oz," which is supposedly haunted. Strange happenings were affecting the "Oz" set and the hanging that can be seen in the picture is enough to make even the most rational person believe in ghosts.

"It was spooky on the set. A couple times I'd come back from lunch early and the set would be empty, with this huge gas station and a motel and it was just kind of a place where I was like 'I think I'll wait outside, wait for the guys to get back before going in,'" said Wilson.

On this creepy set the killers toy with David and Amy and force them to attempt desperate escape schemes, like their crawl through a rat-filled tunnel.

To find out if David and Amy do find another way out, and if Wilson succeeds at an unusual role for him, the movie can be seen in theaters tomorrow April 20.

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Not just for girls: a practical guide for everyone

Megan Peter
Managing Editor

I will admit it, I am a sucker for the practical "self-help" book. Not those books by Dr. Phil or the recently popular "The Secret," which seem to rely solely on the power of positive thinking. And I am not talking about books like "The Rules" or "Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus."

That includes any other relationship advice book that tells me how I am supposed to act or try and explain why most guys that I meet act like little boys.

I like the books that tell me useful, practical advice that I can actually use in my hectic almost college grad life. Over the years I have perused a few books that claim to do just that, but nothing that really stuck. It was nothing that I could ever maintain for a significant period of time in my life.

But as luck would have it, "The Girl's Guide to Absolutely Everything" by Melissa Kirsch was brought to my attention. I was excited at first, like I am at the prospect of all my life qualms being answered in a simple book. But I was also skeptical, because could this book really cover everything that, I, a girl would need to know? Or worse would it only focus on dating and fashion, trivializing what it means to be a girl?

After reading at least something from each section of the book, it appears that it really does cover everything. From how to invest properly, to seeing your parents as real people, to how much to tip in any situation, it is all practical, applicable advice. If I knew all it took was some vinegar, baking soda and some boiling water to clear a clogged drain, I could have saved my housemate a lot of trouble, who

actually cleared our drain by hand once.

And from what I heard, it was not a pretty sight.

As I continued reading, I became more intrigued with the advice given to me. I was told what food no kitchen should be without, the truth behind Sallie Mae student loans and how to handle friendships. It was like Melissa Kirsch had read my mind and knew all the questions I have about my impending future as a "real adult."

The best part about the book is that it doesn't have a condescending tone, but rather a humorous one that makes you feel like you are not alone in your perils. A perfect example of this is when Kirsch describes the two times it is appropriate to have your cell phone on the table during dinner: if you are a doctor on call or a drug dealer. Otherwise it should be put away and on silent or vibrate.

After reading the book for a while, it got me thinking that most of this advice would also be helpful for the other gender. Sure, guys my age might not find it helpful how to find the proper bra or eight ways to wear that little black dress. But how many know what an IRA is, or what to consider when buying a house? Do they know that boric acid eliminates cockroaches? How to ace a job interview?

Despite saying "girls guide" on the cover it is a book that any gender can benefit from. There has been a push in the literature world to empower and educate women, to help them make the same informed choices that men supposedly do, creating a backlash mentality that men do not need the same type of books or advice.

But in reality, I think they do.


While I know that no guy my age is going to buy this book as

long as it says "girl's" on the cover, one can only hope that a female friends will have a copy that they can secretly turn to when they

want to know how much to tip at a restaurant (20 percent) or how to eliminate mice (the old-fashioned snap traps).






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http://spectator.seattleu.edu




SEARC

student events & activities council

april	 FILMS wed 18 blood diamond schaffer auditorium @ 7:30pm	 COFFEE HOUSE wed 25 acoustic music night student center hearth @ 7:30pm
may	 FILMS wed 2 dead poets society schaffer auditorium @ 7:30pm	 MULTICULTURAL AWARENESS thur 3 women of juarez pigott auditorium @ 6pm
 LATE APRIL fri 4 causeway student center hearth @ 8pm		

quadstock.

may 19th. sick.



student center 350 hours: mon-thurs 11am-4pm ph: 206.296.6047 www.seattleu.edu/student/searc

upcoming
events

sports

Fri. April 20,

UW baseball vs. USC6:30 p.m.
Husky Ballpark

Sat. April 21,

UW crew vs. Oregon State9 a.m.
Montlake Cut**Softball vs. Western Washington**noon
Logan Field**UW women's tennis vs. Washington State**noon
Bill Quillian Stadium

Sun. April 22,

Softball vs. Western Washingtonnoon
Logan Field

Softball needs wins against WWU

▶ After the winning run scored, Powers said, "I was pretty upset, but I didn't feel we would lose the second game. I still felt the way we played had shown we were a better team. It was the best we [had] played in two weeks."

But what the first game did prove is that SU can pull its offense and defense together to score runs. As Weir said, the team found what it needed in the first game: balance and consistency.

That consistency didn't transfer into the next game though. The loss dragged the team down going into the next game, which SU lost 8-1.

"After that first game we kind of fell apart. We just weren't able to come back from our loss and they took advantage of that and punished us for it," said Weir.

Unlike the first game, where hits were spread throughout the lineup, the bats fell flat in the second game, with five scattered hits.

For Katie Petersen, freshman center fielder, who had one of the five hits in this second game, the loss was the sore point of the weekend.

"We shouldn't have played how we played. We shouldn't have handed them the game like we did," said Petersen.

After three scoreless innings Brenda Stice hit a solo home-run, her third of the season, but WOU came back with two big offensive displays in the fourth and fifth in-



Jackie Canchola

The Spectator

Freshman Kelsey Reynolds throws a pitch during a home match against St. Martin's University. Reynolds picked up her third shut-out of the season against the Saints.

nings against pitcher Kelsey Reynolds. Reynolds gave up six hits and eight runs in the two innings.

According to Powers, the team made a lot of miscues and mental errors in addition to three fielding errors between the fourth and fifth innings.

The loss was enough motivation for the team to battle against WOU on Sunday in a scoreless game until the seventh inning. After a stifling defensive show on both sides, SU used a two-out rally in the seventh to seal the game and win 3-0.

Petersen, who scored one of the

winning runs and brought two runs in with her double, said Sunday the team played together and showed strength in their unity to bounce back from Saturday's losses.

"I loved how we were in it all seven innings. Even though we didn't score until the seventh, we never gave up or gave them chances to score and take it away from us. We know when we play like that we can win," said Petersen.

Powers said he's thinking game to game, but he acknowledges that next Saturday is a huge day for the team.

"For us to have a good weekend we have to win a minimum of three out of four games. The same goes for Western Washington. They need to beat us to move up and we need to win to secure our position," said Powers. "It's going to be tough. It's going to be a dog fight."

The team plays two doubleheaders against Western Washington at Logan Field on Saturday April 21 and 22 starting at noon.

Jessica can be reached at vangilde@seattleu.edu

Devotion to game evident in SU's only part-time coach

Jessica Vangilder
Staff Writer

Dan Powers displays a genuine love for softball and a dedication that makes him a successful coach, even with the immense workload he takes on.

Powers began coaching the Seattle University softball team four years ago and led the team to the NCAA Regional tournament in both the first and third year. Now in his fourth year, the team is battling another berth to the regional tournament.

But it's not just the team's success that can be linked to Powers; he revamped the softball program, which lacked strong direction beforehand.

"I think he's turned the team around basically and made us a competitor in our conference for sure; and hopefully this year, in the nation," says Jane Purdy, junior second baseman, who has been with Powers for three years. "He's a great recruiter. He's changed the softball program to make it one of the best sports programs SU has."

Powers' passion for the game shows in the team's success and continued growth over the years. Powers specializes in recruiting, and has built up a team with the best stats so far in the program's history.

"He's very dedicated to the success of his team and he brings a great competitiveness," says co-worker Eric Guerra, assistant director of athletics. "We are very lucky to have Dan as a coach—he could be a [Division I] coach. He is a tremendous teacher of the game."

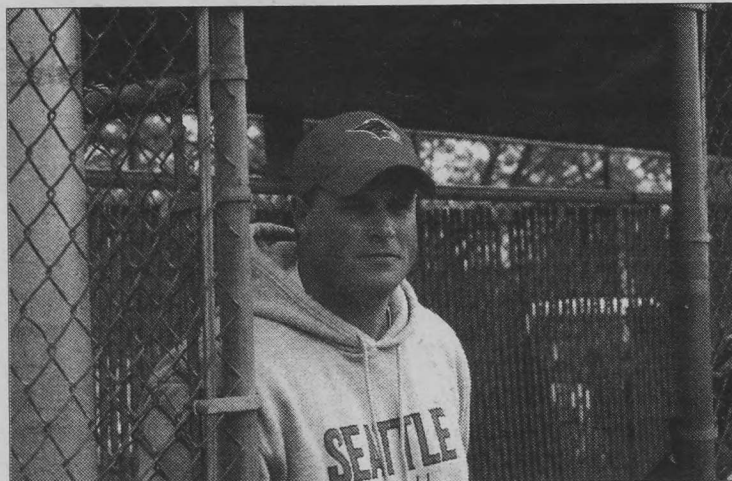
As a throwback, Powers strongly believes in executing the fundamentals on the field and expects his players to get the little things right.

"I just like in the game being able to match wits with the other team. It's almost like chess, when it all clicks together it [is] pretty magical," says Powers.

Even though Powers stresses the fundamentals on the field, he makes sure the team has time to be successful off the field as well.

Although this attitude makes it tougher on Powers, he says he thinks the team appreciates softball not being a job because if it were, it might defeat the purpose of playing.

"He's definitely in it to win, but what we really appreciate about him is that he really cares about his players. Even though he's really competitive and wants to win, he runs the team like a family," says Kelli Marek, senior humanities in teaching major, who is in her fourth and final season with Powers.



Jackie Canchola

The Spectator

Head coach Dan Powers has revamped the SU softball program in just four years with just one goal in mind: a trip to the World Series.

Along with stressing the meticulous fundamentals, Powers manages an overloaded schedule with a full-time job at Todd's Pacific Shipyard Corporation, three kids with one on the way, and the team, which he said adds up to over 80 hours of work a week. But that doesn't for one minute diminish Powers' dedication to his team.

Players agree that it never feels like Powers isn't completely committed to the team.

"The biggest thing with Dan, I think, is how much he loves the game, how much he loves our team and how much time he puts into softball," said Purdy. "For him to balance recruiting and his family

and playing...he's so organized and he loves it so much that he makes it happen."

Marek, who laments this season as her last season with a coach who had made the team into a family, also said Powers shows one of his strengths in his dedication to the game.

"He has a love for the game and knowledge for the game we all really recognize and respect. His love for the game rubs off on us. He always strives for better, and his striving to do his best makes us not just [settling] for mediocrity," says Marek.

Aside from Powers' passion for the game he excels in other aspects

of his life, refusing to settle for an average performance off the field either.

"He's a master of multi-tasking. I marvel by how much he can do, how much he balances and what he sacrifices to do so," says Guerra. "And in all the things he does he still takes time to be a great dad."

Even though Powers admits that in season it gets more than hectic, his love for the game will not take him away from it. For most of his coaching career he also played in competitive men's fastpitch leagues, until the commitment to coaching, along with injuries, tore him away from taking the field.

Coming from the competitive leagues, Powers says he teaches a "higher level of learning and applying" to the team, which is part of transferring the aggressiveness of men's fast pitch to college softball.

With this aggressive approach, Powers' goal for the season is to win the GNAC conference and to "knock off some California teams" in regionals. Beyond this season, Powers hopes to be given an opportunity to take on a full-time coaching position so he can devote his energies to his passion, even more so than now.

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Undefeated rugby club looks to take rival match

Emily Holt
Staff Writer

Watch out Munster Rugby Club: the Settle University men's rugby team scored another victory, making their record a solid, undefeated, 7-0. SU beat the University of Puget Sound last Saturday in Tacoma, 31-8, coming from behind at halftime.

In the first half, SU won a good number of rucks and passed well out of tackles, but the back defensive line was unable to set strongly enough, allowing UPS to push on by.

The Redhawks came back after the half, putting up 31 points compared to a minimal offensive effort by UPS who

was held scoreless in the second period of play.

Armand Poole, sophomore business major, made the first attempt, which was quickly followed up by Micah Hoffman, sophomore business major. Garrett Boyle, junior English creative writing major, scored twice and Craig Egum, business graduate '07, finished up the game. The men also completed each conversion thanks to Hoffman's kicking.

The second half overall saw more involvement of the SU team in rucks and a more strongly set defensive line.

Alex Stone, junior political science major, said the team's mentality changed at the half.

"We took a step back and

realized that we were a much better team," said Stone. "We got our heads into the game and played the game that we practice and can play."

The game also didn't feature any major injuries. In the team's previous match, Boyle was knocked unconscious and taken to the hospital for a concussion.

"We were well prepared physically from working hard all week long. But the first half was absolute rubbish," said Chris Mansfield, head coach. "The second half was real rugby – rugby that the boys know that they can play and that should lead them in the next games."

The team is scheduled to play Reed at home next weekend and looks to continue their winning

streak.

"We are 7-0, undefeated in the regular season; and with three games to go, we have a very good chance at the President's Cup," said Mansfield.

The direction of the men's team may be changing soon. They entered a new league that allows for a championship match at the end of the season and are considering moving up to Division II competition next year where they would be matched with the likes of Western Washington University, Southern Oregon University and Gonzaga University. The SU men's rugby team is now currently in the men's Small College Division in the Pacific Northwest Rugby Football League.

"There have been offers due to our current and past records (15-1-1)," said Mansfield. "Because of that and our victories, the union has seen that and respected that and offered us this chance. It will be solely my decision and it will be made next year. It will offer the boys a lot more exposure to rugby."

The men's last league game is on May 5 and they are set to play rival Oregon Institute of Technology, the only team to ever beat SU's rugby team.

"I've played for the team for three years, and in that time, we've only lost one game – to Oregon IT," said Stone.

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Currier breaks own school discus record, again

Jessie DiMariano
Staff Writer

Despite having to deal with strong winds and higher elevations, the Seattle University track and field team competed strong at the 2007 Spike Arlt Invitational last Saturday, continuing to prepare themselves for conference.

For the men's team, beating the elements placed them ahead of conference rivals Seattle Pacific and Division I Idaho, finishing in sixth place overall with 55 points.

Contributing to the sixth place finish was sophomore sprinter Daniel Sullivan with his win in the 400-meter hurdles, finishing

over two seconds ahead of his nearest competitor.

"The younger competitors bring a sense of passion to the program and I love their enthusiasm," said Charisse Arce, senior distance runner and captain of the women's team. "Our program will be successful in the future and we have a lot to build off of."

The men's 4x400-meter relay team also earned a victory, helping the Redhawks with their sixth place finish, while Tomi Keah, senior sprinter, picked up team points in the 100-meter and 200-meter dash. Keah automatically qualified for the GNAC Championships in the 100 by finishing fourth and

earned a personal season best time of 22.76 seconds in the 200.

Also competing strong in running events was Nathan Heitzinger, senior distance runner, earning a GNAC interim qualifying time in the 10,000-meter run.

The women's team also had a successful weekend as they placed seventh overall with 25 points.

"I'm pleased with our seventh place finish considering some of the other teams in our conference get about 60-80 people out for track, when we have less than 30 individuals out. Numbers really make a difference in our conference," said Sullivan.

Leading the women's team in field events, Lindsay Currier,

sophomore thrower, broke the school record in the discus throw she had set last week, throwing the discus nearly 14 feet further. Currier finished second in the discus and eighth in the shot put, making good use of her personal training with assistant coach Kristen Christopher.

Rounding out the women's performance was Charisse Arce, senior distance runner. Arce finished in third place in the 3000-meter race with a personal season best time of 10:49.51.

"It was a challenge for everyone because it was a really windy day but we turned out some great performances," said Arce. "We are getting stronger and are turning out good times

towards the latter half of the season, which is ideal."

The 4x400 relay team, sophomore sprinter Daniel Sullivan, and senior distance runner Nicholas Dols head to Eugene, Ore., this Friday and Saturday to compete in the University of Oregon Invitational at Hayward Field.

"This meet will give our top athletes the chance to run against some bigger schools and better competition," said Eric Schueffner, assistant coach. "These meets, like the Oregon Invite, are what we strive for in the future of this program."

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Baseball shows offensive prowess in weekend sweep

Rose Egge
Staff Writer

Seattle University's baseball club continued their chase for a playoff position this weekend and increased their chances by sweeping Central Oregon Community College.

"I think we're finally coming together and trusting each other," said JD Jackson, head coach. "We're not all trying to be heroes and be the only guy out there trying to get it done."

Seattle showed offensive improvement early in the first game against the Bobcats. During the first inning third baseman Keagan Nokes hit an RBI triple which was followed by an RBI from Sam Sideras, sophomore center fielder, bringing the score to 2-0.

In the second inning, after Central Oregon scored their first run on a fielder's choice, the player that advanced gave a seemingly unnecessary shove to Seattle's David Murakami, junior catcher. Jackson immediately became furious, yelling at the umpires and Central Oregon's coach.

"There was definitely some tension and I think this could create a nice rivalry down the road

for us," said Jackson. "I'm looking forward to it."

Seattle's Kevin Roach, junior pitcher, responded to the emotional outburst with a triple that set up another Sideras RBI. The Central Oregon pitcher walked the next four batters he faced before giving up a triple and a single to Nokes, making the score 7-2.

"We turned our offensive power on a little bit, and just started hitting the ball. Besides Evergreen [State College], this was the first time we really actually scored runs and just kept it going," said Nick Shekeryk, senior first baseman.

In the fifth inning, another Central Oregon player knocked Murakami off the plate, despite no play being made on the runner and the large Seattle lead. The player was ejected from the game.

"I thought it was a little bit inappropriate for what the situation provided," said Roach.

The next inning, the Redhawks continued to put offensive pressure on Central Oregon. Nokes hit a double and advanced to third on a single by Roach. Then, Sideras brought Nokes in with an RBI single. The lead was 15-6 just before Shekeryk ended the game early with a walk-off three-run homer. The final score was 18-6.

"Well at Evergreen my bat exploded, but this weekend I got a new one and it seems to be working pretty well," said Shekeryk.

In the second game, Central Oregon tried to get going offensively with a single and persistent base stealing, but the pitching of Sean Nammany, senior, kept the Bobcats from earning any runs.

Seattle was able to produce early with RBI's from Nokes and Roach, resulting in a 2-0 lead.

In the next inning Central Nick Blanchard, junior short stop, was able to increase Seattle's lead to 3-0 with a ground rule RBI double.

Although the Bobcats hit one single in the third inning, continued strong pitching from Nammany and solid defense from the infield kept Central Oregon scoreless.

That same inning Roach had a ground rule double and Shekeryk hit his second home run in as many games. Seattle increased their lead to 8-0 in the fifth when Murakami had a base hit and Nokes hit a home run.

Seattle held onto their lead with a double from Blanchard and a triple from Richie, ending the game with a score of 10-2.

However on Sunday, Seattle

came into game three with confidence and an attitude that may have been a little too relaxed.

"I don't think the team took the third game as seriously as they should have. Before the game we were loose, and I think it showed," said Blanchard. "There wasn't much energy in the dugout, no one seemed motivated to go out and play well."

The Central Oregon pitching proved very effective against the Seattle line-up, keeping the Redhawks scoreless until the fourth inning when Blanchard had an RBI single.

Roach battled with strong pitching, despite Central Oregon scoring stints in the first and third innings. After that, Roach was able to keep Central Oregon from scoring again by adding 15 strike outs to the mix.

Although Seattle had a couple hits in the next few innings, they also were unable to add any runs.

"[Sunday] they threw a lot of breaking balls and we didn't do a very good job of making adjustments," said Jackson.

The game really got exciting in the ninth inning when Central Oregon increased their lead to

3-1 with a home run, putting even more pressure on Seattle's offense.

With the win and their playoff chances on the line, the Redhawks tied the game when Namanny and Jordan Chanes, freshman outfielder, scored on a one-out fielder's choice by Blanchard and a throwing error by Central Oregon's first baseman.

As they went into extra innings Roach stayed strong and struck out two more batters. Moments later as he approached the plate Roach hit the game winning home run over left field.

"Kevin Roach had a wonderful day, he's pretty much a one man wrecking crew," Jackson said. "But overall this weekend we won three games as a team. From top to bottom, all the way down to our bullpen catcher, everybody had a role, and these were just great team wins."

After a bye this week, the Redhawks will play their last regular season series at Eastern Washington University on April 28 and 29. Soon after, they will find out if they will be competing in the regional playoffs.

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editorial

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ASSU candidate endorsements

President

The role of ASSU President is perhaps the most important student job on campus, for the president has a wholly unique role in the campus community. More than just a leader for their individual club, the ASSU President is given the often heavy task of representing the entire student body, addressing their needs and complaints in a professional manner.

Based upon such criteria, *The Spectator* believes that there is no finer candidate to lead the student body into the 2007-2008 academic year than Steve Lombardi. A dedicated student and a strong communicator, Lombardi is the type of individual who can meet someone for the first time and, five minutes later, have that person excited to be rallying behind him.

This is what the student body at Seattle University needs: an individual who has goals – goals that he specifically identifies as such, instead of promises that he won't be able to keep – and who is not afraid to make sacrifices to meet them.

Lombardi has managed to strike a fine balance in his personality: while he is a social and friendly man when he has to be, mingling with students from all sects of the campus population, he can immediately turn an internal switch to become a powerful presence who commands attention. In this trait, he is unique among the presidential candidates.

Executive Vice President

DuWayne Andrews, Jr. is an all around stand-up guy: He's pursuing areas of study in both political science and humanities; he displays his musical creativity in both choir and jazz band; and he is a strong Christian who exemplifies the Jesuit values of Seattle University.

Even if he weren't the only candidate running for the Executive Vice President position, he would still get high marks from *The Spectator*.

Andrews, who has spent time working his way through the ranks of ASSU and picking up valuable student government skills along the way. Andrews, entering his junior year, realizes where he belongs in the organization: in an executive position, making his voice heard to ASSU and to the broader campus community.

For Andrews, just because ASSU is student government doesn't make it any less important. Through his interviews with *The Spectator*, he has made clear his intent at skewing the governmental skills he has picked up as a political science major for the campus community. His well-balanced education will surely translate into a well-balanced leadership role, and one in which *The Spectator* is confident he will succeed.

Vice President of Student Affairs

Although Natalie Sheils is only a freshman, and though she is running uncontested, Sheils deserves the opportunity to represent the student clubs and organizations that depend on ASSU for support, guidance and funding.

Her work and dedication to ASSU as freshman representative over the past year, have given her insight into what will be expected of the position, and her experience with public forums oriented toward the freshman class have cultured her to listen to the needs of her constituents.

Sheils must make efforts to increase communication between ASSU and campus clubs, a processes that has been successful under Lombardi, but must also be kept up if ASSU is going to be successful in the future.

It will undoubtedly take time before Sheils learns the ins and outs of exactly what her position will require of her, however, with dedication, she will prove herself to be a long lasting member within ASSU.

Vice President of Finance

Arguably the individual entrusted with the finances of ASSU and the appropriations of all clubs on campus is the most important person within student government. The position requires an individual with a strong financial understanding, high organizational tendencies and excellent communication abilities. Using that criteria, we feel that the individual best suited for the position of Vice President of Finance is Kai Smith.

Smith has an in-depth knowledge of exactly what will be required of his position next year. He also has solid and attainable goals which will streamline the budgeting and appropriations process in the next academic year.

Through his past real world experience, working for a state auditor, as well as the relationships that he retains with other members of ASSU, Smith has guaranteed that all clubs will be assessed and will have funds appropriated to them in a fair and timely manner.

The position of Vice President of Finance will mature and become more effective with Smith in that position.

The Spectator editorial board consists of Nicholas Lollini, Megan Peter, Brenda Stice, Lauren Padgett and Rob La Gatta. Signed commentaries reflect the opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of *The Spectator*.

Adults never too old for Disneyland

Jessie DiMariano
Staff writer

When I was seven years old, I remember my mom and dad packed my sister, my cousin and I into our rented Chevy Ventura at 4:00 in the morning on Christmas Eve. We were vacationing in San Diego and my mom said she thought it would be fun if we all went and looked at Christmas lights in the middle of the night.

After we piled into the family van, I fell asleep on my sister's shoulder and my cousin fell asleep across my lap. We drove through the night and 90 miles later, my cousin's head perked up and she nudged me over and over.

"Wake up Jessie... We're at Mickey Mouse's house!"

My cousin was indeed correct. We had arrived at Disneyland.

Needless to say, that day at "Mickey's house" is one of my fondest childhood memories.

But it wasn't the spontaneity of the Christmas day adventure to the land of Disney that made the day so memorable. It was the undeniable wonderfulness that is Disneyland; wonderfulness that has only become more magical over the last 14 years.

Just two weeks ago, I ventured down to southern California to share that magic with my friends and from the moment we were greeted with a pleasant smile and cheerful welcome at the entrance of the park, I was reminded of just how happy the "happiest place on Earth" really is.

The high-spirited music echoing throughout the park, the plethora of kids dressed up as their favorite Disney character, the fanciful array of attractions; Disneyland has got it all.

First up on the attraction list for our day of Disney was the Matterhorn. There is something inherently fantastic about that jerky

decent down the dark mountain, and it was the ultimate start to our day.

Immediately after we got off the ride, each of us had gleaming smiles across our faces that were the result of that indescribable magic that makes Disneyland so, well, magical.

From the Mad Tea Party tea cups to Space Mountain, Disneyland can make a kid's dream come true and turn adults into a 10 year old again. One cannot help but succumb to the happiness that is all around. Happy children and families, pleasant park attendants, cleanliness throughout the park and an endless supply of whimsical fun.

Although it does cost a small fortune to be 10 years old again – a \$67 hopper pass for Disneyland and California Adventure, \$15 lunch, and of course, \$3 churros – it's always worth it because you experience a world in which fun is

inescapable.

That small fortune really is a small price to pay for a real life fairy tale where Disney characters are brought to life, eight different "lands" of Disney delight are to be explored, and entertainment is the main attraction.

When my friends and I went on Space Mountain, which now features a Red Hot Chili Peppers soundtrack and visual effects customized to match each twist and turn, we were all giggles and smiles. The kind of giggles that turn into downright hysterical laughter and the kinds of smiles that stretch ear to ear and leave your face hurting. It's as if there's something in the air that obligates you to lose your senses and act in a fabulously childish manner. That is what makes Disneyland the happiest place on Earth.

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Letters to the editor should be 300 to 500 words long and emailed to Rob La Gatta at lagatta@seattleu.edu. *The Spectator* reserves the right to edit letters for length and spelling, grammar, and style errors.

Bursting the SU iPod bubble

Sean Towey
Staff Writer

Hey, hear that bird chirping in the blossoming tree, signaling the first signs of spring? How about the sounds of an up and coming band muffled out of a studio apartment on the corner of Pike and 10?

Or maybe the blast of a car horn right before it chops you at the legs, somersaulting you onto the pavement as your dome bursts like a watermelon dropped from the top of Campion?

Wait, you didn't hear that, did you? Because you were too busy listening to your portable music device, rather than paying attention to the world around you.

With the latest wave of technology fashion trends in the form of portable music devices, the most common of which being the iPod, have provided another way for human beings to wrap themselves further into their own cocoons. [Like sitting in a metal box for hours on I-5, like building more and more gated communities, the iPod is one more excuse to avoid outside society.

The safety issues are obvious; pedestrians more concerned about Hilary Duff's latest single than looking both ways before crossing the street have caused several deaths and serious damage, especially in urban areas. In

fact, New York State Sen. Carl Kruger introduced legislature that would fine pedestrians \$100 for what he calls "iPod oblivion."

According to the National Safety Council, 5,991 pedestrians died in 2003. Though I am making this figure up, approximately 4,643 of those deaths were caused due to pedestrians turning their iPod's wheel instead of heeding the wheels heading right for them.

Some heartless Opinion editors may argue that people incapable of crossing the street properly deserve to perish. However, that still does not account for the emotional trauma a person receives when running over someone or the physical damage done to their car.

Yet, the social implications of the "iPod bubble" are more troubling than the safety problems.

Though they hear music all day long, people just aren't listening anymore.

Less and less people are engaging in random conversations on the street with other people. Less and less people are chatting as they pass each other on the way to class. Less and less people recognize the beauty inherent in the cacophony of sounds a rich urban area makes.

Beyond that, there is an inherent beauty in silence. People constantly

listening to their iPods are terrified of their own thoughts, drowning them in their latest play list. A constant bombardment of stimuli leaves little time for the reflection and relaxation that every human being should enjoy.

These noises hold beauty; they contain the hum of civilization. Though Slayer might be a great band, they do not compare to the pulse of Seattle.

Observation and conversation are two key components of successful social interaction. With everyone listening to their iPods, these two social mainstays suffer.

So, to you, the guy with the greasy black hair and a flannel shirt, or you, blonde UW girl in a purple and gold hooded underneath a black Northface jacket; take out your headphones. Leave them at home, just for a day. Actually listen to the sounds of the place you live in. Embrace those little noises that give humanity to every day life.

In short, stop hearing and start listening. Take an active role in the world that you live in. Recognize that constantly operating in your own private sphere harms you and the people around you; physically, emotionally and socially.

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Feminism and life: A woman's so-called right to abortion

David Bernica
Volunteer Writer

It's mind boggling to think how anyone, born from one's mother, can support the institution of abortion—the ugliest commonly accepted "procedure" that falls nothing short of ending life. It certainly doesn't foster an environment of celebrating birth, which has brought you and me to where we are today, studying, socializing, living a full life. Silly little babies—feeling content, warm, and safe inside their mothers.

Feminism has forever dealt with issues of equality—issues that still need to be addressed and resolved today. I am a feminist. Three of the most important people who have shaped my life are women who have struggled with gender discrimination. In the 1960s, my grandma experienced prejudice working in a male dominated capital building in Topeka, Kansas. Today, my sister has experienced similar inequality working in a law firm. My mom, once the president and board member of a YWCA, is one of the strongest people that I know and very mindful of gender struggles. All of this being said, a respect for life has not been lost in their equality-minded perspectives as they did not and will not buy into the pop-feminism derived from a disregard for life in the womb. My mom is a feminist...for life. Your mother appears to be as well. You're here, reading this paper.

The most influential and significant feminists in our history have been pro-life. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony and Alice Paul have shaped some of the most important social reforms ever in favor of gender equality. They never considered abortion a woman's right. Abortion mirrored the woman disenfranchisement against which they so passionately fought. These women, and I draw from some of their direct comments, referred to abortion as "an evil," "a crime," "murder," and "infanticide."

Stanton even said that this "crying evil" would hopefully be stopped through "the complete enfranchisement and elevation of women."

My, how she would shudder today knowing that so many

people link feminism with the right to choose death for a child in the womb. She also said: "When we consider that women are treated as property, it is degrading to women that we should treat our children as property to be disposed of as we see fit." Few statements expose the injustice of abortion as well as her words here. Innocent female children die in abortion too.

Fear, ignorance and egocentrism perpetuate the falsity that the right to abortion is no different than the right to vote. Such an enormous, popular attitude prevents many from viewing the 1.3 million deaths per year in the U.S. as one of the most important social justice issues in the history of our country, which it certainly is. Abortion has many consequences, one of which perpetuates ugly racial and class discrimination. Day Gardner, president of the National Black Pro-Life Union, says that the multi-million dollar abortion industry targets low income African-Americans in densely populated neighborhoods largely consisting of African Americans. She comments that so many African-American children are "denied their most basic human right—which is the right to life, a right which our ancestors so proudly worked for, marched for and many of them died for." Also, "Abortion," she later stated, "has become the number one killer of black people in this country—killing more African Americans than accidents, heart disease, stroke, crimes, and HIV-AIDS and all other deaths combined!" Think about this. This is serious. Concerned about social justice?

Susan B. Anthony and most of our country's early feminist leaders believed that abortion not only killed a child (whose heart beat can be detected 21 days after conception), but that it also denies the woman and the most powerful gift and ability that any person has—the ability to give life, solely belonging to women. Abortion, in other words, could not be more anti-feminine, more anti-humanity. It could not be uglier either. Celebrate life. Respect life. Protect life, of all ages. That's social justice.

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Unslayable reality TV monster

Mike Baldwin
Staff Writer

Tears most certainly flowed from the eyes of "Laguna Beach" fans everywhere when Jason Whaler, star and resident jerk-off of MTV reality series "The Hills" was arrested in Seattle on Monday.

My beautiful girlfriend called to inform me that the co-star of the riveting series "The Hills" apparently slugged a hotel security guard, passed out in a stairway, screamed homophobic and racial slurs at police officers, and warned them of the impending beat down that awaited them if they ever ventured down to L.A. County.

While many questions have been raised by this tragic series of events, the biggest question remains the most obvious:

Who the hell cares?

I have asked myself that question repeatedly while banging my head furiously against my living room wall, when the answer occurred to me: the real tragedy is not that this guy got arrested or that we have to be put up with news stories on his most recent arrest, but the fact that

people do care.

In this golden age of reality television, where nobodies are made famous and forgotten celebrities reborn, it has become startling clear that we care way too much about people who are way too unimportant.

At least the stars of reality television used to be normal people who were just a wee bit too obsessed with themselves. Now we have to suffer through dramatic television series that follow rich kids around as they get drunk and arrested. If only this kind of stuff had been around to follow Bush in the 70's. Oops...can I say that?

As we all await the outcome of Whaler's upcoming prison sentence for a past case, at least we can look forward to his tearful public admittance that he has a substance abuse problem and will be entering a resort center. I mean rehab center. Let's just hope that he remembers to wipe off the white powder under his nose before the press conference. (O.K., I do not know if he does in fact have a coke problem. But in all seriousness, watch the show. He's not even trying to hide it).

A columnist on ESPN.com recently compared this age of reality

television to heavyweight boxing in the 70's, meaning that it has reached its peak. One can only hope that it follows the same course boxing did after its heyday.

All we need is a Tyson figure. Just give it a few years, I am sure that Jason will have bitten off Wes from the Real World's ear during a Real World/Laguna Beach gauntlet challenge and have threatened to eat Flava Flav's children.

During a time when our government is busy playing the game of Risk with the world and our schools are producing less qualified graduates than a 30-minute Best Buy training program, let us kill the beast that is reality television produced fame. It's infected our society to the point that the trust-funded Jason Whaler's of the world think that they mean something. Turn the channel to Sesame Street. Oscar the Grouch would whoop the living snot out of Jason.

Now, as I await the revolution, you will have to excuse me. There's a marathon of "I Love New York" on and I have to shoot the T.V.

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Letter to the editor

Dear Editor,

I just wanted to add to this week's science question that the biggest reason we don't know if time travel is possible is that the galaxies and everything in them are constantly moving, so if you were to travel through time you'd end up in a completely different place in the universe. So, that's another thing that you have to take into consideration.

Another issue is that if one was to travel through time and land in the right place, you'd have to land at the same velocity as the earth (or wherever you landed) so that it doesn't collide with you at 20 kilometers per second. So, if time travel happened, we wouldn't know because the person who traveled through time would most likely die instantly.

Another thing to mention is that a

sort of time travel is possible because when you travel at a speed close to the speed of light, time slows down considerably, so if I were to travel from Earth to Alpha Centauri at 0.99 times the speed of light, and come back, about 10 years would have passed for people on earth but, to me, the time passed would be a few days.

Sincerely,
Jason Ashbach

Reckless Endangerment

April 13, 12:30 a.m.

Public Safety on patrol heard a significant impact on the roof of the Campion Ballroom. Upon investigation, officers found that someone had dropped a garbage bag full of water from one of the upper floors of the residence hall. No activity was observed from above levels.

Trip and Fall

April 13, 8:10 a.m.

A student reported to Public Safety that she had tripped on a walk off mat located at the west exit of the second floor of the Student Center. The student reported she had no injuries and refused any first aid assistance. The carpet was re-set by Public Safety officers.

Malicious Activity/ Trespass Warning

April 13, 11:30 p.m.

Public Safety warned two non-affiliate males found urinating in the bushes near 10th Avenue and Madison St. Both males were positively identified, cooperative and apologetic for their actions.

Child-related Safety Assist

April 14, 7:45 p.m.

Public Safety officers on patrol were contacted by a student, who advised them that an intoxicated woman was carrying a baby down the street. Public Safety observed the intoxicated woman and the reckless situation she had placed her baby in. The Seattle Police and Fire departments contacted the woman at East Jefferson St. and 12th Avenue.

Theft

April 11, 1:30 p.m.

A staff person at the Career Fair reported someone took her company laptop computer. Public Safety searched the area, but no computer was located.

Accident - Car/ Pedestrian

April 11, 12:45 p.m.

Public Safety, the Seattle Police Department and the Seattle Fire Department responded to a grandpa who accidentally struck his twelve-year-old grandson with his vehicle when pulling away from the curb. The grandpa apparently thought his grandson got into another vehicle. SFD transported the boy to a local hospital with a leg injury.

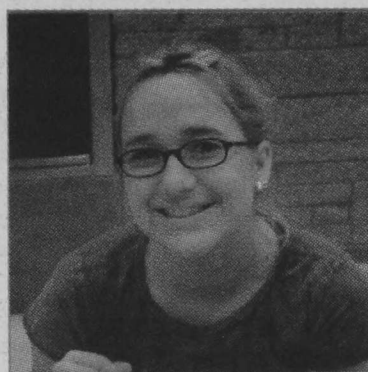
Photos and
interviews by
Megan Peter

How do you know when it is spring?



"I look at a calendar."

Andy Porter, junior computer science major



"When the sun actually comes out."

Katie Carey, sophomore environmental studies major



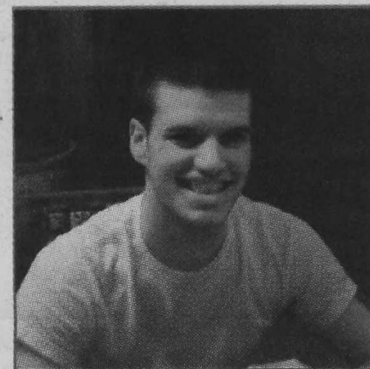
"When birds are squawking at 2 a.m."

Chelsea Ryberg, sophomore electrical engineering major



"When couples appear all over campus."

Jessica Swanson, sophomore civil engineering major



"When all of a sudden you don't want to be in classes."

Matt Larson, sophomore civil engineering major



"When the sun is still out at 7:30 p.m."

Kassey Bautista, freshman nursing major and Amanda Giese, freshman pre-major

What causes mirages?

Question submitted by: Timothy Carstens

On a hot day when driving down a highway, sometimes you can see what looks like a shimmering pool of water covering the road up ahead. As you drive closer, however, the pool disappears. Perhaps you have noticed that if a car further up the road is driving on top of the pool, you can even see the cars reflection! So, why is this? Before we can answer this, we need to discuss something called refraction.

Refraction is a phenomenon which applies to any wave and since light behaves like a wave, light can refract or change directions. Waves which are traveling through a medium do so at a specific speed and if they change to a different medium, they travel at a different speed. A change of medium also changes the direction of the wave, and this effect is called refraction. For example, light travels through air and water at different speeds (slower in water) so when light travels into water or out of water, it changes speed and thus direction. This is why when you stick your fingers into water, they appear distorted and stubby (assuming they are not already so).

The last relevant fact that we need to mention is that light travels

slower through denser air. This means, of course, that if light travels from denser air to less dense air, it will refract. Also, the warmer the air, the less dense it becomes (assuming constant pressure) which means that if light travels from cold air to warm air, it will also refract.

When the sun is beating down on the tarmac, a highway gets pretty hot and this causes the air above the road to heat up thus making it less dense. So, when light travels towards the road a shallow angle, it curves (refracts) due to the warmer air and misses the road altogether. The result is that we see the light that has been redirected and it comes to us so that it appears to have come from the road itself. This is what we call a mirage and it disappears as you get closer because the angle of viewing becomes too steep. These mirages appear as a pool of water because the light refracted is from the blue sky (generally, hot days and blue skies come together).

Please send your science related questions to:
suphysicsclub@hotmail.com